

Third Monitoring Report

May 2001

SUFFOLK'S ENVIRONMENT...TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – THIRD MONITORING REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development was published in March 1997 by the eight planning authorities in Suffolk. It:

- described the main characteristics of the environment of Suffolk;
- provided a means for examining the relationship of planning policy and environmental quality;
- identified over 100 indicators to provide measures of the environmental effect of policies and proposals; and
- provided a basis for future monitoring.

Publication of the Report represented the start of a process of ongoing environmental appraisal of planning policy within Suffolk.

The Report sought to recognise the role of the Suffolk Development Plan in promoting sustainable development. All local planning authorities must prepare and keep up to date a development plan containing policies and proposals relating to the development of the whole of their area. The Development Plan for Suffolk currently consists of the strategic County Structure Plan and the District/Borough and subject area Local Plans listed in *Figure 1.1* below.

Figure 1.1
The Development Plan in Suffolk

Plan	Adopted	End date	Plans in preparation
Suffolk County Structure Plan (incorporating alterations 1,2 and 3)	June 1995	2006	Review and Replacement, Structure Plan Review 1999 as proposed to be modified. (end date 2016)
Babergh Local Plan Alteration No. 2	June 1995	2001	Review – First Deposit Plan due Summer 2001.
Forest Heath Local Plan	December 1995	2001 (2006 for Red Lodge)	Review and Replacement – Issues Report due Summer 2001.
Ipswich Local Plan	May 1997	2006	Review and Replacement – First Alteration due Summer 2001.
Mid Suffolk Local Plan	September 1998	2006	Review and replacement – Issues Report due Summer 2001.
St Edmundsbury Local Plan	June 1998	2006	Review and replacement - Issues Report completed (February 2000) and 1st Deposit Draft under preparation.
Suffolk Coastal Local Plan	December 1994	2001	Adopted (2001) - (end date 2006)
Waveney Local Plan	November 1996	2006	Review – First Deposit Plan due Spring 2001
Broads Local Plan	May 1997	2006	
Suffolk Minerals Local Plan	May 1999	2006	

The Development Plan provides the framework for the spatial pattern of development, identifies the features that should be protected and includes measures to improve the quality of the environment. Planning decisions must accord with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Characterising the Environment

Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development provided a measure of the quality of the environment of Suffolk as at mid 1996. This baseline can be used to assess whether policies and proposals in the structure and local plans are having a positive or negative impact on this quality. Aspects of the environment that are included within the Report are shown in *figure 1.2*.

Figure 1.2
Scope of Suffolk's Environment Report

HOUSING	Scale and location of development; Existing planning permissions and allocations; Affordable Housing
EMPLOYMENT	Existing employment structure, and location of employment; Unemployment; Employment availability; Tourism
AGRICULTURE	Agricultural land quality; Potential loss of agricultural land
LANDSCAPE	Designated landscape areas; Historic parks, greens and commons; Landscape and countryside management
WOODLAND	Extent of woodland; Woodland management and new planting
WILDLIFE	Protected habitats and species; Habitat creation; Nature reserves
CONSERVATION AREAS AND LISTED BUILDINGS	Conservation areas; Listed Buildings: Historic buildings at risk; Grant aid and enhancement schemes; development in Conservation areas
ARCHAEOLOGY	Archaeological sites; Related planning decisions
TOWN CENTRES	Land uses within Town centres; vacant units; multiple retailers; accessibility; pedestrianised areas; out-of-town centre proposals
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Design briefs; Control of new development; Open Space in built up areas; Tree Preservation Orders
TRANSPORT	Location of development and access to facilities; encouragement of alternatives to the private car, public transport, cycling, pedestrians; traffic management
RECREATION	Playing space; allotments; golf; Indoor sport and leisure
COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION	Informal recreation sites; public rights of way; promotional activities
WATER QUALITY	Quality of rivers and estuaries; Groundwater; Coastal waters; Pollution incidents; Flooding
COASTAL PROTECTION	Coastline management; Extent of sea defences
MINERALS	Mineral resources in Suffolk; Production of alternative aggregates; Restoration of mineral sites
WASTE MANAGEMENT	Facilities for waste disposal; recycling facilities; restoration of waste disposal sites
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Renewable energy capacity in Suffolk

The Development Plan is only one element influencing environmental quality and in relation to many aspects of environmental concern it has only a limited impact. This limits the range of subjects included in the Report. A number of issues relating to the concept of sustainable development are outside the scope of planning policy, being more appropriately dealt with in the context of wider sustainability indicators. Whilst indicators have not been devised for this wider scope as part of the Report, background information has been included where appropriate, for example, consumption of water by different sectors.

Purpose of the Indicators

A range of indicators were identified in the original report to measure change in the environmental quality of Suffolk. The indicators measure the impact of implementation of plan policies, including through the development control process. These indicators provide a means for assessing the effectiveness of policy in:

- increasing environmental quality;
- protecting recognised environmental assets; and
- catering for the development needs of the County.

The indicators also provide a measure of the extent to which recognised environmental assets may be damaged as a result of planning policy.

Monitoring Indicators

The chosen indicators use information from a variety of sources of information including:

- planning applications and decisions;
- existing information held by the local planning authorities (for example, listed buildings);
- monitoring of development that is being carried out (for example, rates of housing development, available land bank of sand and gravel reserves);
- other local authority activities (for example, provision of bus lanes, landscape grants); and
- information from other organisations (for example, Environment Agency, Forestry Authority).

In *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development* it was appreciated that updating of the baseline data which feeds the indicators would vary depending on the nature of the information in question. Two reporting periods for the indicators was seen as desirable. Some of the indicators would be reported on an annual basis, whilst others on a five yearly cycle would coincide with the comprehensive review of *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development*. This five yearly reporting period would also include updating of the background information.

18 indicators are updated every five years. These indicators are likely to reveal only slight or infrequent change, where only the long term trend assessments would be important, for example, change in number and area of commons and village greens. This should not be taken as negating the importance of any such changes. It is intended that the first five yearly Review, having an end date of 2001, will be published in 2002.

112 indicators are updated annually, and it is these that are reported in this monitoring report. Information for these indicators is where it is easily available or already collated, where changes are more frequent or where the indicator dictates it necessary. These indicators can be split between those reliant upon development control monitoring and those on other sources.

21 of the annual indicators rely upon information derived from the monitoring of determined planning applications. The development of these indicators is still thought to be unique within planning authorities throughout England and Wales. Since the devising of these indicators much work has been undertaken in

clarifying definitions and information requirements for each indicator and establishing systems, mainly computerised, for extracting required data on a basis that would allow consistent analysis. Monitoring of planning applications commenced on 1st July 1997. Results for 1997-98 were reported in the First Monitoring Report and for 1998-1999 in the Second Monitoring Report, alongside the 1999-2000 results, to enable comparisons.

Indicators using information from planning applications do not include *DOE Code 13 Householder* applications, for example, extensions to properties or construction of outbuildings, including garages and sheds. Whilst it is recognised that such applications are numerous and in most cases do not significantly affect the environment they may incrementally impact upon the environment. However, sheer numbers mean that the cost of monitoring these applications would be prohibitive.

The remaining 94 annual indicators rely upon other sources of information, the majority of which is held or collated by the Suffolk local authorities, for example, the amount and location of residential development, and the number of historic buildings at risk. These indicators have been updated for mid 2000. Where practical, the mid 1998 and mid 1999 updates are also included. Such recording when set against the previous year of a respective indicator should allow short-term trends to be analysed.

The Third Monitoring Report is not intended to reach conclusions on any of the indicators but merely serves to highlight possible trends and issues. *Suffolk's Environment... towards sustainable development* is a long term project aimed at continually monitoring the progress of the local planning authorities in contributing to sustainable development. Over time the monitoring results will increase understanding of the contribution of the planning process to sustainable development.

Indicator review

The production of this monitoring report provides an opportunity for the authorities concerned to assess the merits of each of the annual indicators. This assessment allows the following to be taken into account:

- The quality of information gained for the indicator – whether it is sound and meaningful. Where this has not been achieved it will be necessary to consider further refinement, or where impractical or impossible, deletion of the indicator;
- The significance of the indicator to the subject concerned. In a number of subjects knowledge is continually expanding and improving. It is important that indicators remain relevant. In ecology the preparation of Biodiversity Action Plans is increasing knowledge re habitats and species, whilst the Millennium Challenge within the County aims to increase knowledge about landscape change;
- The availability of the information and consistency between authorities. A number of systems have been devised specifically for this project and these should be assessed; and
- The compatibility with other published indicators. Whilst the Report has developed an innovative and comprehensive set of indicators, since publication a wealth of other sources of indicators have arisen, for example, the Government's draft *Sustainability counts; headline indicators*. Whilst it is important that indicators remain relevant to their concern, consideration needs to be given to easing the collation of material. Wider sustainability indicators may be developed by the Suffolk local authorities at a later date.

Format of this Report

The Third Monitoring Report updates the indicators included in *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development* to mid 2000. These are reported on a topic by topic basis in the order that they appear in the original report. Where possible, analysis has been undertaken and is reported under each indicator. It has not been possible to update, and reproduce, all of the background information contained in *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development*, or in the First Monitoring Report. The Second Monitoring Report should, therefore, be read in conjunction with the original Report, its technical appendices and the First Monitoring Report.

Further Information

Suffolk's Environment ... towards sustainable development is a joint venture involving the County Council and all at the District/Borough Councils in Suffolk. More detailed information relating to each indicator reported is held centrally at Suffolk County Council, at the address below. For more information relating to a particular District/ Borough please contact one of the following:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BDC	Babergh District Council	FHDC	Forest Heath District Council	IBC	Ipswich Borough Council
MSDC	Mid Suffolk District Council	SEBC	St Edmundsbury Borough Council	SCDC	Suffolk Coastal District Council
WDC	Waveney District Council	SCC	Suffolk County Council		
N/A	Not Available	N/T	Not triggered	N/k	Not Known
Ha	hectare	Km	kilometre		
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	CWS	County Wildlife Site	LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NFFU	Non Fossil Fuel Obligation	NNR	National Nature Reserve	PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SAC	Special Area of Conservation	SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument	SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPA	Special Protection Area	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest	TPO	Tree Preservation Order

DEVELOPMENT IN SUFFOLK

Suffolk is a largely rural county with a wealth of both natural beauty and built heritage. Its desirable environment, together with its relative proximity to the South East and Europe continue to make Suffolk an attractive County in which to both live and work. The County has experienced significant development pressure over the last 20 years, which shows no sign of subsiding in the near future.

Each year thousands of people move into or out of Suffolk, or from one area to another within Suffolk. Between 1981 and 1999 the population increased by around 68,000 (nearly 3,800 per year), mainly from the movement of more people into than out of the County. The excess of births over deaths was only 6,800. Suffolk's population grows at about 0.6% per year on average. In 1999 the total population of the County was around 666,600.

Historically planning policy has been to neither encourage nor restrain population, housing and employment growth at County level, but to manage and direct development pressures via the Development Plan system to those areas best able to accommodate them.

Indicators not reported this year are:

H4: Number of units for affordable housing refused - deleted.

EM10: Number of visitors to top attractions – deleted.

The following housing and employment indicators seek to assess the impact that recent development in Suffolk has had on the County.

Key results are:

- Currently 46% of new dwellings being completed in Suffolk are being built on previously developed (brownfield) land.
- Just over a third of all land committed for new housing is on previously developed (brownfield) land.
- Housing completion rates have fallen over the last few years and are currently slightly below that required to meet Structure Plan targets.
- Unemployment has continued to fall in all areas of the County and currently averages 2.5% (January 2001).
- The number of jobs in Suffolk continues to grow and presently stands at around 300,000.
- Tourism (in terms of visitor numbers) appears to be relatively static at present, although the county's culture/ heritage sites are attracting more visitors than in the past, compared to the theme parks/ fun attractions.
- As was found in previous years the refusal rate for new commercial activity is over double that for existing commercial, reflecting a more flexible approach to existing businesses.
- Over 92% of applications for new commercial activity which were refused were on sites not allocated or defined for employment use, again reflecting the overall objective of directing new employment to existing centres.

“Brownfield” Residential Development in Suffolk

In 1996 the Government set a national target for brownfield site development (i.e. sites which have been previously developed). This target, for 60% of all new development to be on brownfield land, now forms a national sustainability headline indicator.

It has been agreed that annual monitoring of the Suffolk Local Authorities progress towards meeting the Government target should be included in Suffolk’s Environment project. The monitoring looks at two main aspects of ‘brownfield’ sites: -

- The *percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land*. (DETR’s headline indicator in the ‘Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK’.)
- The *number of dwellings approved or allocated on previously developed land* and the proportion of all approvals for residential development taking place on such sites in relation to overall commitments.

Indicator BH 1: Number and percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land

Area	Brownfield completions 1998-99	Brownfield completions 1999-00	Total completions 1998-99	Total completions 1999-00	% contribution from brownfield sites 1998-99	% contribution from brownfield sites 1999-00
Babergh	..	152	..	235	..	65%
Forest Heath	79	79	140	201	56%	39%
Ipswich	124	279	149	335	83%	83%
Mid Suffolk	128	187	425	546	30%	34%
St. Edmundsbury	310	154	578	576	54%	27%
Suffolk Coastal	219	336	447	561	49%	60%
Waveney	91	83	423	382	22%	22%
Suffolk	951	1270	2162	2775	44%	46%

New for 1999-2000

Note: No returns for completions were received from Babergh District Council.

In relation to new dwellings completed on previously developed land it can be observed that:-

- Between mid 1999-00 over 1100 dwellings were completed on brownfield sites in Suffolk. This represents an average of about 1000 dwellings per annum over the two years.
- 46% of all completions over the last year have been on brownfield sites. This is slightly higher than the percentage for 1998-99.

The overall average of 46% tends to hide a wide variation between the Districts. Ipswich with 83% of its completions on brownfield sites is over 20 % higher than the second highest District – Suffolk Coastal 60%. Waveney District again recorded the lowest percentage with only 22% of completions.

Indicator BH 2: Number and percentage of existing commitments on brownfield sites – mid 2000

Area	Brownfield sites with planning permission	Brownfield sites - Allocated in local plans	Total brownfield sites committed	Total commitments - all sites.	% of commitments on brownfield sites mid-2000	% of commitments on brownfield sites mid-1999
Babergh		
Forest Heath	252	426	678	2553	27%	26%
Ipswich	1608	339	1947	2266	86%	87%
Mid Suffolk	855	0	855	2530	34%	32%
St. Edmundsbury	351	172	523	2734	19%	20%
Suffolk Coastal	1429	75	1504	4706	32%	34%
Waveney	415	65	480	3437	14%	14%
Suffolk	4050	1080	5130	15700	33%	34%

New for 1999-2000

In terms of existing commitments on brownfield sites: -

At mid 2000 it is estimated that there were over 4000 units on brownfield sites with planning permission in Suffolk. A further 1000 were allocated in Local Plans.

- In relation to total commitments it is estimated that one third of the land available was on brownfield sites.
- The overall average of 33% tends to hide a wide variation between the Districts. Ipswich with nearly 90% of its commitments on brownfield sites is over 50 % higher than the second highest District – Mid Suffolk (34%). Waveney District again recorded the lowest percentage with only 14% of commitments being on brownfield sites.
- In some towns e.g. Haverhill, Lowestoft and Stowmarket large areas of greenfield land have been allocated in Local Plans. This has had the effect of depressing the percentage of commitments on brownfield sites. Until these outstanding allocations have worked their way through the system it is unlikely that any Government targets for brownfield development will be achieved in the near future.
- The basic distribution of brownfield commitments has changed little over the past year.

The results of this years monitoring confirm that for a basically rural County such as Suffolk the current take-up rate of 46% is considerably less than the Government's key target "to build 60% of all new houses on reused sites". However it should be noted that the Government target is an overall target for England and does not apply to every region or county individually. The East Anglian and Suffolk targets have been set at 50%. This years monitoring shows that Suffolk Local Authorities are at least maintaining current levels of provision at only 4% below the East Anglian regional target.

Since the last monitoring report was published in March 2000 an Examination in Public has taken place relating to the Suffolk Structure Plan Review, the Panel have published their report and Suffolk County Council have published their proposed modifications to the Structure Plan Review. The figures used in the tables for Indicators H1 and H2 are the figures that have been arrived at as a result of that process. The new Structure Plan covers the period 1996-2016 and both tables H1 and H2 now relate to that period.

Indicator H1: Housing stock changes in relation to Structure Plan rates of development.

With the County's population growing by nearly 3,800 per year between 1981 and 1999, Indicator H1 was developed to monitor housing provision in relation to the County Structure Plan.

Structure Plan dwelling requirements						
	Housing stock			Annual average dwelling requirement		
	1996	2000	Structure Plan Change 1996-2016	Structure Plan Rate 1996-2016	Historic Rate 1996-2000	Rate required 2000-2016
Babergh	34840	36290	6900	345	363	341
Forest Heath	24050	24640	5300	260	148	294
Ipswich	50770	51330	7200	400	140	415
Mid Suffolk	34830	36640	8100	405	453	393
St Edmundsbury	40270	42310	9000	440	510	435
Suffolk Coastal	50660	53060	9700	470	600	456
Waveney	49970	51280	7500	335	328	387
Ipswich Policy Area	64940	67380	12200	655	610	610
SUFFOLK	285390	295550	53700	2650	2540	2721

Notes : Limitations on land available for development within the Ipswich Borough boundary necessitate an examination of a wider area to meet the requirements for housing and employment growth centred on Ipswich. Ipswich Policy Area takes in 20 parishes within the three Districts adjacent to Ipswich.

At mid-2000 there were an estimated 295,500 dwellings in the County. The Structure Plan Review makes provision for 2,650 additional dwellings per year within Suffolk for the period 1996 - 2016. For the first four years of the Structure Plan period (1996-2000) the increase was about 2,500 per year. Currently the rate required to meet the new Structure Plan requirements (2,720 per annum) is just above the Structure Plan rate.

There are considerable differences between District Council areas. Forest Heath and Ipswich have been behind the anticipated rate of development. Babergh and Waveney Districts have experienced building rates in line with Structure Plan provisions, whilst in Mid Suffolk, St.Edmundsbury and Suffolk Coastal completions have been ahead of the expected rate. Within the Ipswich Policy Area, a substantial amount of recent development has taken place, albeit not necessarily in the Ipswich boundary. Comparative figures for the Ipswich Policy Area show a building rate consistent with Structure Plan provisions.

Indicator H2: Land availability for residential development in relation to Structure Plan/Local Plan provisions and PPG3.

Calculation of land supply by residual method – Mid 2000: Structure Plan Review									
	Structure Plan	Stock	Dwelling	Rate	Commitments mid-2000			Shortfall /surplus mid-1997	Years supply -S.P.rate of development
	Change	Change	Requirement	Required	Local				
	1996-2016	1996-2000	2000-2016	2000-2016	Consents	Plan All	Total		
Babergh	6900	1450	5450	341	2661	475	3136	-2314	9.2
Forest Heath	5300	590	4710	294	719	1834	2553	-2157	8.7
Ipswich	7200	560	6640	415	1908	358	2266	-4374	5.5
Mid Suffolk	8100	1810	6290	393	901	745	2530	-4863	3.6
St Edmundsbury	9000	2040	6960	435	1204	1530	2734	-4226	6.3
Suffolk Coastal	9700	2400	7300	456	4276	385	4661	-2639	10.2
Waveney	7500	1310	6190	387	2426	671	3097	-3093	8.0
Ipswich Policy Area	12200	2440	9760	610	4843	358	5201	-4559	8.5
SUFFOLK	53700	10160	43540	2721	14095	5998	20977	-23666	7.3

Notes: The table makes no allowance for the likely future incidence of 'windfall' development which will continue to make a significant contribution towards the overall housing requirements. Limitations on land available for development within the Ipswich Borough boundary necessitate an examination of a wider area to meet the requirements for housing and employment growth centered on Ipswich. Ipswich Policy Area takes in 20 parishes within the three Districts adjacent to Ipswich.

The requirement that "Local Authorities should aim to ensure the availability of 5 years supply of housing land, judged against the general scale and location of development provided for in approved structure and adopted local plans" is no longer a fundamental requirement of revised Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 (March 2000). Current emphasis is towards a more flexible and responsive approach of "plan, monitor and manage". Future monitoring of housing land availability will relate more closely to the revised guidance, with current monitoring being expanded to encompass areas not presently covered. Notwithstanding the change in emphasis it is still considered useful to look at the current situation regarding land supply. Indicator H2 has therefore been retained for the present and the results for the current year are shown in the table above.

New housing to provide for growth up to 2016 will come from four sources:

- Housing built since the Structure Plan base year;
- Planning consents and existing allocations in Local Plans;
- Development of unallocated or 'windfall' sites; and
- New land allocations in Local Plans.

Of the 23,600 shortfall shown in the above table it is estimated that specific allocations for approximately about 12,500 dwellings on larger sites will be required in order to meet the county's projected needs up to 2016. The remaining shortfall is expected to be met by the development of unallocated or 'windfall' sites. A more detailed breakdown of these figures can be found in the relevant Structure Plan documents.

Indicator H3: Number of units for affordable housing approved

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
H3	Number of units for affordable housing approved.	Number approved	1999-00	N/T	N/T	65	N/T	10	17	N/T	92
			1998-99	36	12	355	31	52	15	84	585
			1997-98	8	N/T	N/T	N/T	100	N/T	34	142

* Six months data only for 1997-98

This indicator was designed to monitor the actual number of affordable/local needs housing achieved over and above what would be provided in the normal course of events. In Suffolk each District Council has included policies to encourage the provision of affordable housing within their respective Local Plans. Affordable housing is defined as any affordable/low cost/local needs housing unit(s) that fall within the following two categories:

1. units in major schemes;
 2. units on exception sites;
- and which are either shared ownership/ equity units or rented housing association units.

In 1999-00 only 92 units have been formally identified on such sites – much less than in previous years. One additional site has also received approval at Haverhill for a total of 139 dwellings, but the exact number of affordable units on the site is not known. An estimate of 20% or 27 units built on site being required to be affordable was made, using St Edmundsbury Borough Councils Housing Need Survey.

Of the 92 affordable units identified 52 were in major schemes and 40 on exceptions sites. The majority will be for rented housing association units. Housing Associations have again brought forward a number of sites in the monitoring period. Further information needs for regional monitoring/PPG3 will require information to be collected on all sites where affordable housing is provided.

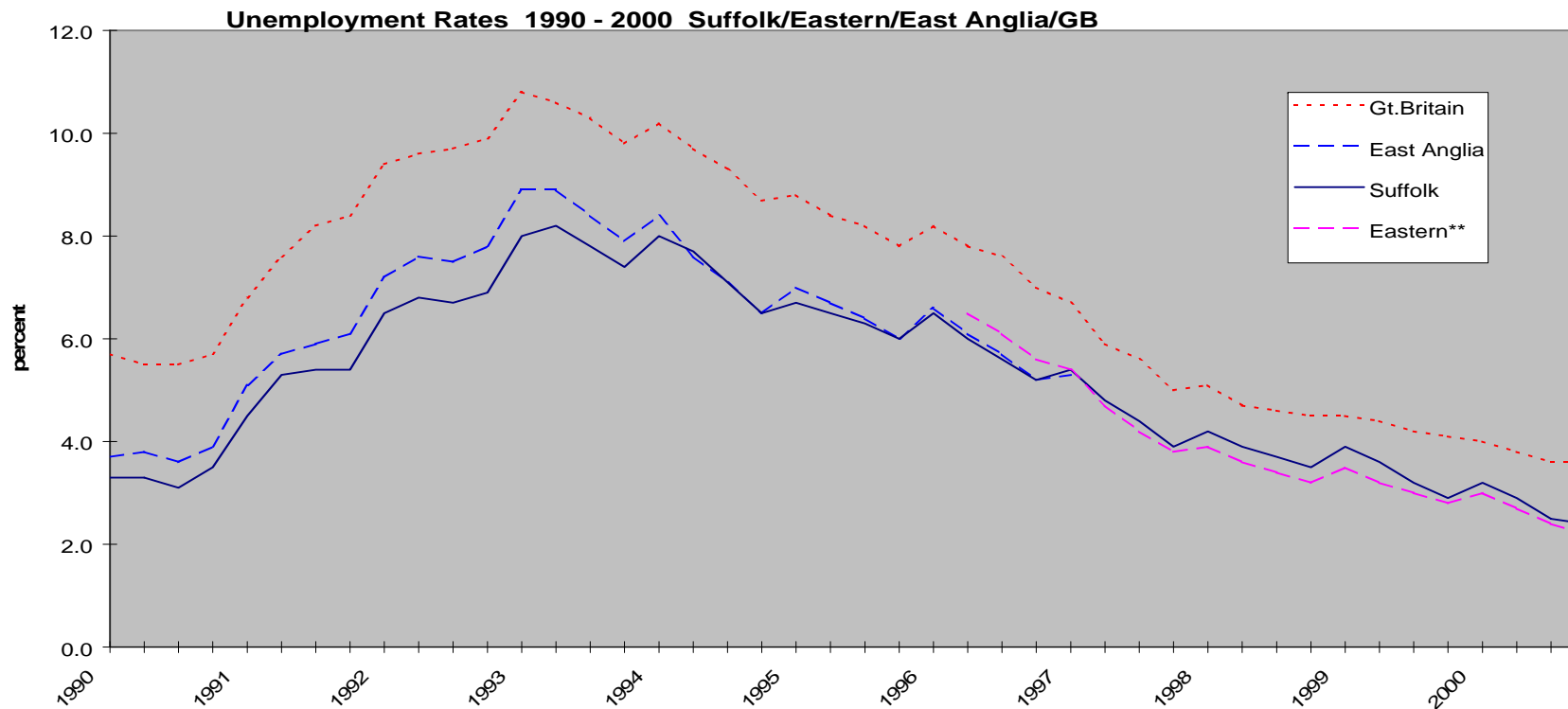
Indicator H5: Number and percentage of major housing schemes approved with no affordable housing.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk	
H5	Number and percentage of major housing schemes approved with no affordable housing.	Number of sites approved	1999-00	2	N/a	4	2	2	3	6	19
			1998-99	3	2	7	8	5	13	5	43
		Number of units approved	1999-00	52	N/T	72	103	61	44	235	567
			1998-99	145	187	240	186	134	377	161	1430
		Percentage approved.	1999-00	67%	n/a	25%	50%	13%	43%	86%	36%
			1998-99	75%	67%	70%	80%	56%	93%	45%	70%
		Denominator = total number of major schemes approved for housing	1999-00	3	n/a	16	4	16	7	7	53
			1998-99	4	3	10	10	9	14	11	61

This indicator was new for 1998-99.

In the first year of monitoring 1430 units were approved on forty-three major housing schemes (10 plus units), on sites with no affordable housing provision. This year has seen numbers of approvals fall quite drastically. Only 19 schemes were approved with some 567 units receiving planning permission. The overall approval rate for sites approved with no affordable housing has fallen to 36%. Whilst last years approval rate of 70% seemed high for such sites it should be borne in mind that many of the permissions were renewals of older planning permissions where 'affordable' housing policies cannot be used. It was predicted that the percentage would fall over time as the relevant policies become more effective. Whether the fall that has taken place over the past year is down to this or other factors is difficult to assess on the limited information available.

Indicator EM1: Numbers and percentage of unemployed (claimants)



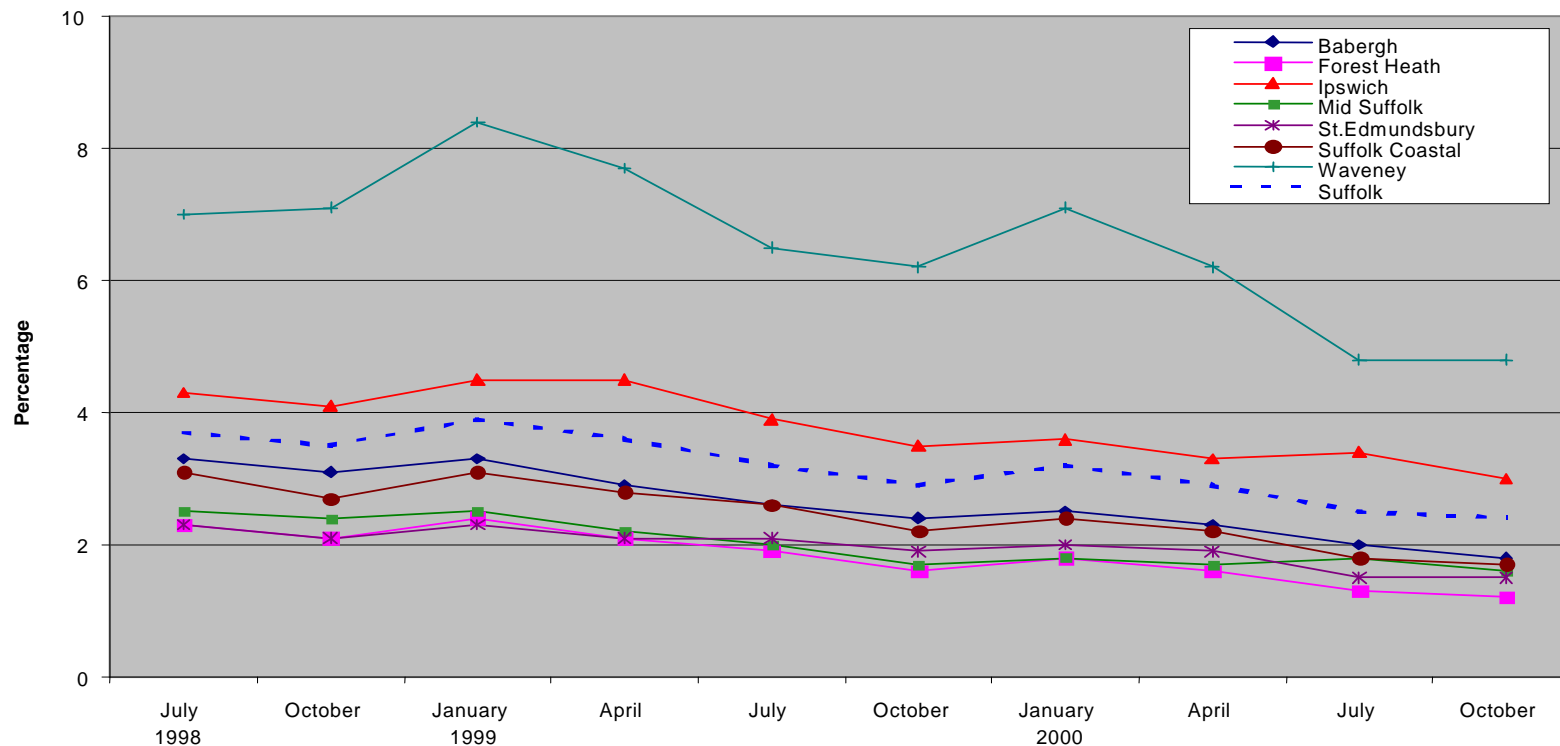
Source: ONS monthly claimant count

Unemployment (claimants expressed as a percentage of employees in employment and unemployed and H.M. Forces and participants on work-related Government Training Schemes).

Percentages have not been revised retrospectively following changes in denominators. Rates for East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs) not available from 1997 – change to Eastern Region base (Which includes East Anglia plus Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex).

The figures show that since 1990 unemployment in Suffolk has mirrored both national and regional trends throughout the period, but at lower levels. The change to the Eastern Region base has meant that for the last four years Suffolk rates have been above that for the region. The unemployment rate in Suffolk was 2.5% in January 2001.

Unemployment Rates 1998-2000: Suffolk Districts

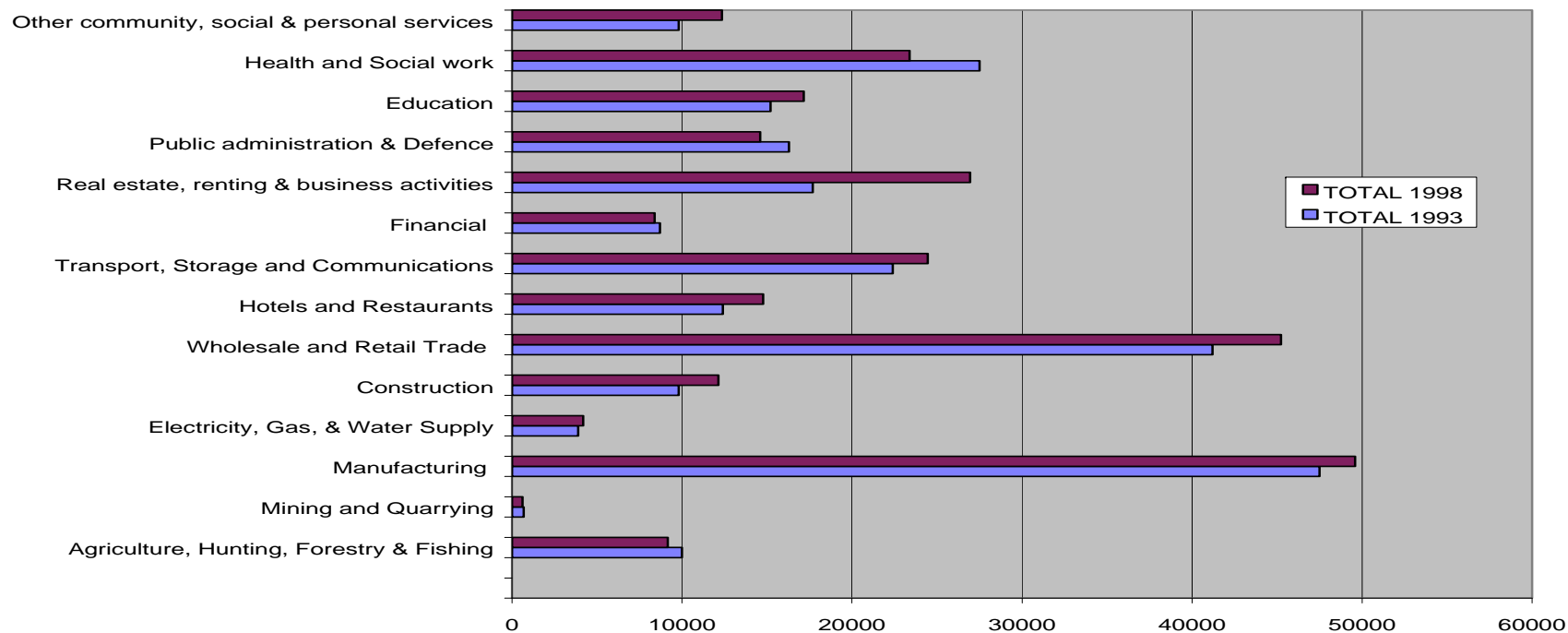


Unemployment (claimants expressed as a percentage of employees in employment and unemployed and H.M.Forces and participants on work-related Government Training Schemes).
All percentage rates relate to unadjusted figures and have not been revised retrospectively following changes in denominators

The graph shows the unemployment trends for the Districts in Suffolk. Information at this level has only been available from July 1998 so it is not possible to identify long term trends. The graph clearly highlights the Waveney area as having consistently high unemployment with rates in Ipswich also being above the County average – although in both of these areas the situation has improved over the last year, with improvements being most noticeable in Waveney. The remaining Districts have all maintained relatively low levels of unemployment throughout the period with unemployment levels continuing to decrease. However, it should be noted that even within the Districts with relatively low levels of unemployment there are often pockets of high unemployment.

Indicator EM2: Numbers and percentage of employees in individual Employment Divisions.

Distribution of employees by SIC - Suffolk 1993 and 1998



Source: 1993 and 1998 Annual Employment Surveys

Indicator EM2 shows the breakdown of the workforce for Suffolk in 1993 and 1998, by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). Suffolk has a diverse economy, with no single predominant industry, although certain towns are dependent upon large employers, e.g. Clays in Bungay and Lucas and Admans in Sudbury. The distribution for Suffolk shows above national average proportions of employment in agriculture, transport and communications and a below average proportion in financial services.

The figures tend to understate the importance of agriculture to Suffolk since they exclude farmers and other self employed agricultural workers. In 1998 an additional 12,000 persons were employed in the food processing industry. When these and other agricultural related industrial activities are taken into account the importance of agriculture to the County becomes more readily apparent.

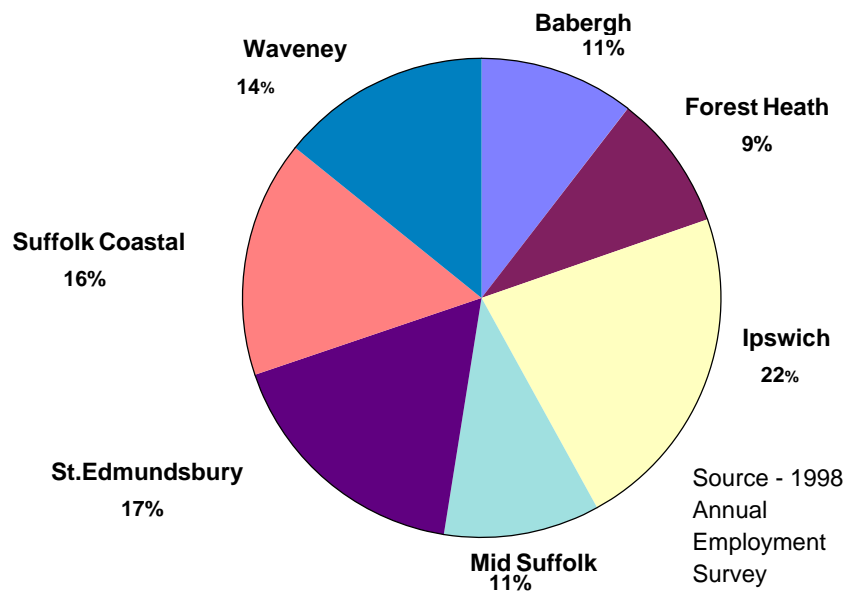
A comparison between the two years show that some structural changes appear to have taken place. Agriculture has continued to decline as have the Health and Social work, and Public sectors. This has been counterbalanced by increases in numbers employed in Wholesale and Retail Trade, Real Estate, Transport and Communications and perhaps most surprisingly the Manufacturing sector although numbers employed in this sector do appear to have fallen back from 1997 levels. It should be borne in mind that the information used for the two years may not be directly comparable in that sample bases for the two years will vary. Nevertheless it is thought that the broad conclusions are valid.

The above figures do not include the self employed - a large proportion of whom will be involved in the service sector. It is estimated that there are currently about 45,000 self- employed persons living in Suffolk.

During the 1990's job growth has generally been at a slower rate than that experienced during the eighties. There are now some 300,000 jobs in the Suffolk economy.

Indicator EM3: Numbers and percentages of employees by location.

Employment in Suffolk - Location



Indicator EM3 shows nearly a quarter of the jobs in the County are in Ipswich. The more rural Districts of Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Forest Heath only contain 31% of the jobs in Suffolk. The distribution shows little change from previous employment surveys.

Indicator EM4: Land Availability for business/industrial development.

Commitments Area(Ha)	BDC ⁽¹⁾		FHDC ⁽¹⁾		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC		Suffolk	
	1996	1998	1996	1999	1996	2000	1996	2000	1996	2000	1996	2000	1996	2000	1996	2000
Planning Permissions	26.5	3.7	19.1	13.8	25.8	34.1	5.5	15.2	101.6	89.5	19.8	67.5	60.0	65.3	258.3	289.1
Local Plan Allocations	26.7	14.2	23.7	20.2	45.1	25.1	30.6	18.9	76.9	63.1	98.8*	49.7	8.1	4.1	309.9	191.6
Total	53.2	17.9	42.8	34.0	70.9	59.2	36.1	34.1	178.5	152.6	118.6	117.2	68.1	69.4	568.2	480.7

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Figures have not been updated – no information available
* includes former RAF Bentwaters

Source: District Councils.

The latest information shows there is still a substantial amount of land available. An apparent large decrease over the past year in Ipswich is the result of 34ha of land at Ransomes Europark being transferred to their "Vacant land within existing employment areas" category. Given recent take-up rates (see below) there is clearly no shortage of industrial land available for development in Suffolk.

Indicator EM5: Completions on business/industrial development land.

Commitments Area(Ha)	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1995	N/A	N/A	2.28	N/A	2.97	N/A	N/A	5.25
1996	N/A	N/A	1.30	N/A	4.03	19.95	N/A	25.28
1997	5.10	N/A	9.52	N/A	6.50	3.13	1.85	26.10
1998	34.40	1.60	3.36	N/A	1.22	N/A	1.73	42.31
1999	N/A	3.00	2.35	N/A	1.07	15.62	2.99	25.03
2000	N/A	N/A	1.00	6.22	13.77	3.05	0.34	24.3

Note: Some rates refer to calendar year/ others to mid year.

Source: District Councils

The information available shows that between 1995 and 2000 some 148 hectares of land have been developed for industrial use in the County – mainly in Babergh, Suffolk Coastal, Ipswich Borough and St Edmundsbury.

The high level of industrial development in St Edmundsbury is mainly due to the coinciding completion of several on going, large-scale developments. Development is mainly split between the boroughs two towns of Bury St Edmunds (9.26 ha) and Haverhill (4.41 ha), with only one rural development in the village of Ingham. Concentrated, in both towns, development has been focused within Suffolk Business Park, Bury St Edmunds (8.34 ha) and Homefield Road Business Park, Haverhill (4.11 ha).

Indicator EM6: Number and percentage of all applications for commercial activity in rural areas approved.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
EM6	Number and percentage of all applications for commercial activity in rural areas approved.	Number approved	1999-00	44	11	N/A	95	15	74	21	15	275
			1998-99	..	28	N/A	86	14	44	21	26	219
			1997-98	90	1	N/A	128	67	137	52	36	511
		Percentage approved	1999-00	92%	73%	n/a	97%	68%	87%	84%	88%	89%
			1998-99	..	97%	n/a	97%	93%	96%	84%	87%	94%
			1997-98	89%	100%	n/a	88%	80%	95%	93%	90%	89%
		Denominator = number of applications outside physical limits of towns listed in Town Centres chapter.	1999-00	48	15	N/A	98	22	85	25	17	310
			1998-99	..	29	N/A	89	15	46	25	30	234
			1997-98	101	1	N/A	145	84	144	56	40	571

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

In 1999-2000 275 applications triggered this indicator. When the absence of Babergh's figure for last year is taken into account the totals are very similar to last year. The approval rate of 89% is not significantly different from last year. 77% of approvals were for industrial and business use, 15% were for tourism related uses and the remaining 8% were retail.

The lower numbers for the past two years reflect the decision taken to exclude applications within the minor Development category (PS code 10).

Indicator EM7: Number and percentage of all applications for expansion of commercial activity refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
EM7	Number and percentage of all applications for expansion of commercial activity refused.	Number refused	1999-00	N/T	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	12
			1998-99	..	2	2	3	2	N/T	N/T	2	11
			1997-98	6	N/T	N/T	15	5	4	7	4	41
		Percentage refused	1999-00	n/a	20%	6%	2%	4%	5%	6%	6%	3%
			1998-99	..	11%	20%	2%	6%	n/a	n/a	6%	4%
			1997-98	6%	n/a	n/a	9%	4%	3%	9%	13%	6%
		Denominator = number of applications for expansion of existing commercial use.	1999-00	32	10	36	188	26	42	18	18	370
			1998-99	..	18	10	122	31	27	16	32	256
			1997-98	101	n/a	n/a	169	116	136	79	32	633

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

In 1999-00 the indicator was triggered by 12 applications. The low numbers again reflect the decision to exclude applications within the minor development category. In previous years over two thirds of refusals were on sites not allocated or defined for employment use. The results for this year show a 100% refusal rate on such sites.

Indicator EM8: Number and percentage of all applications for new commercial activity refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
EM8	Number and percentage of all applications for new commercial activity refused.	Number refused	1999-00	7	8	1	5	8	9	7	1	46
			1998-99	..	2	7	14	6	3	5	2	39
			1997-98	6	1	N/T	13	10	7	13	1	51
		Percentage refused	1999-00	13%	73%	3%	3%	13%	11%	14%	33%	9%
			1998-99	..	14%	18%	11%	11%	5%	9%	67%	11%
			1997-98	19%	50%	n/a	19%	8%	9%	21%	8%	13%
		Denominator = number of applications for new commercial use.	1999-00	55	11	35	190	60	83	49	3	486
			1998-99	..	14	40	133	57	61	58	3	366
			1997-98	32	2	n/a	67	133	75	62	13	384

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

As was found in previous years the refusal rate for new commercial activity (9%) is over double that for existing commercial, reflecting a more flexible approach to existing businesses. Over 92% of applications for new commercial activity which were refused were on sites not allocated or defined for employment use, again reflecting the overall objective of directing new employment to existing centres.

By summing Indicators EM7 and EM8 it can be seen that of all applications for commercial activity (856) 58 were refused, indicating an approval rate of 93% for such development in all areas. This compares with an equivalent figure of 92% for the previous year, indicating a favourable level of consistency in decision making relating to this indicator. The results for 1999-2000 show a similar rate of refusal for both urban and rural areas, as in the previous year. The rate of refusal for commercial activities in urban areas was 4% whilst that for rural areas was 6%.

Indicator EM9: Registered accommodation bedspaces in Suffolk - January 2000

	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
Serviced	1408	1080	1437	918	840	2089	1643	9497
Self Catering	77	773	9	86	24	168	2346	2239
Caravan/Camping	202	352	247	43	24	2508	3276	4144
Other	0	0	0	28	0	40	0	68
TOTAL	1687	2205	1693	1075	888	4805	7265	15948

Source: East of England Tourist Board

The information in the table only relates to establishments that are registered with the Tourist Board. In 2000 registered tourist accommodation in Suffolk totaled nearly 16,000 bedspaces, 200 more than in 1999. The basic distribution has remained the same with 26% being on caravan and camping sites, 60% in hotels and boarding houses and 14% in self-catering accommodation.

As in 1999 the bulk of the accommodation is concentrated in Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Districts with 45% and 30% respectively of the County's total stock.

Indicator EM11: Number of tourist attractions.

Facility	Borough/ District Council							
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
Museums	4	3	2	6	3	9	18	45
Historic Buildings	12	4	3	4	7	11	7	48
Animals	0	2	0	2	1	3	2	10
Food and Drink	1	0	2	1	2	2	2	10
Gardens	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	8
Entertainment / Sport	1	0	2	1	1	3	4	12
Mills	0	0	0	1	5	4	2	12
Nature Reserves	4	0	1	4	3	17	3	32
Boats / Planes	6	0	1	0	1	8	9	25
Arts / Crafts	4	0	0	4	1	9	4	22
Walks	9	7	0	4	2	5	4	31
Countryside Facilities	6	9	2	7	1	12	1	38
Countryside Access	7	0	1	5	3	5	4	25
Total	56	25	14	44	31	88	60	318

Source: Suffolk County Council publication "A Day Out in Suffolk 2001"

Overall, the number of attractions has increased slightly since last year. Attractions across the County have risen from 264 in 1996 to 318 today. The number of historic buildings has been amended to include thirteen particularly impressive Churches around the county. Also, South Elmham Hall (a Grade 1 listed Medieval Manor House) has been added to the list of Historic Houses.

Whilst a couple of Museums have been closed for a year or two for refurbishment (Moyses's Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft ISCA Maritime Museum), the majority of other facilities throughout the county has remained stable or increased slightly.

Indicator EM12: Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development approved.

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
EM12	Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development approved.	Number approved	1999-00	4	5	N/T	23	4	27	16	N/A	79
			1998-99	..	7	N/T	9	6	18	21	N/A	61
			1997-98	10	2	N/T	18	5	33	18	N/A	86
		Percentage approved	1999-00	100%	100%	n/a	88%	100%	93%	94%	n/a	93%
			1998-99	..	100%	n/a	90%	100%	86%	95%	n/a	92%
			1997-98	100%	100%	n/a	95%	100%	85%	100%	n/a	92%
		Denominator = number of determined applications for tourist related development.	1999-00	4	5	n/a	26	4	29	17	n/a	85
			1998-99	..	7	n/a	10	6	21	22	n/a	66
			1997-98	10	2	n/a	19	5	39	18	n/a	93

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

As in previous years over 90% of applications for tourist related development were approved. The majority of approvals were again for minor developments or change of use with particular emphasis on additional accommodation or improvements to existing tourist facilities. In previous years the majority of applications approved were in the two coastal authorities i.e. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. This year's figures show a distinct increase in numbers of approvals in Mid Suffolk, particularly for accommodation.

Indicator EM13: Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development refused.

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
EM13	Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development refused.	Number refused	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	3	N/T	2	1	N/A	6
			1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	3	1	N/A	5
			1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	6	N/T	N/A	7
		Percentage refused	1999-00	n/a	n/a	n/a	12%	n/a	7%	6%	n/a	7%
			1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	10%	n/a	14%	5%	n/a	8%
			1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	5%	n/a	15%	n/a	n/a	8%
		Denominator = number of determined applications for tourist related development.	1999-00	4	5	n/a	26	4	29	17	n/a	85
			1998-99	..	7	n/a	10	6	21	22	n/a	66
			1997-98	10	2	n/a	19	5	39	18	n/a	93

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Historically numbers of applications for tourist related development refused have been small. This year is no exception with only 6 applications triggering this indicator over the monitoring period. This once again reflects an overall objective of wherever possible encouraging the provision of tourist facilities within Suffolk.

THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Character of the environment of Suffolk is based to a large extent on the quality of the rural county. The Development Plan policies operated by the eight planning authorities in Suffolk have an important role in safeguarding the environmental quality of the Suffolk countryside. They provide the local policy framework within which the Government's objectives for the rural environment can be met.

The indicators are concerned with the agricultural land, woodland, landscape and wildlife habitats of the county.

Indicators not reported this year are:

LRP 1: Changes in landscape linear features in sample areas.

LRP 2: Changes in landscape point features in sample areas.

LRP 3: Changes in land use in sample areas.

L8: Extent of non local authority landscape management schemes; **5 year indicator.**

W1: Area of woodland; **5 year indicator.**

W2: Area of woodlands covered by approved Forestry Authority management schemes since 1991; **5 year indicator.**

E7: New habitat provided in accordance with the provisions of local plan allocations; **not reported due to data consistency problems.**

E8: Number of publicly accessible nature reserves; **5 year indicator.**

Key Findings:

Analysis of those indicators reported suggests that with regard to agricultural land:

- Of the 761.66ha of agricultural land allocated for development in mid 1996, 54% or 458.7ha remained without permission in mid 2000
- Land for housing represented 73.09 ha, or 83%, of the allocated agricultural land taken up between 1999 and 2000.
- Of the 80 applications on farmland refused, 50% were residential applications and 30% commercial.
- The refusal of permissions on agricultural land prevented the development of 88ha. of land.
- 86% of the 372 applications on agricultural were approved for development.
- Commercial (47%) and residential (32%) approvals represented the majority of permissions granted on agricultural land.
- 200ha of agricultural land will be affected by approvals granted during the monitoring period, however individual areas were generally small.
- Suffolk Coastal District Council has a low rate of application approval across the monitoring period. This shift maybe explained as a result of a new policy in Suffolk Coastal Local Plan First Alteration designed to minimise potential impact upon the character of the countryside.

Agriculture

AG1 – Area of agricultural land allocated for development

Area (hectare) of agricultural land allocated for development (mid 2000)												
District	Housing				Employment				Other			
	Take up '96-'98	Take up '98-99	Take up '99-'00	Remainder	Take up '96-'98	Take up '98-99	Take up '99-'00	Remainder	Take up '96-'98	Take up '98-99	Take up '99-'00	Remainder
Babergh	15.7	6.9	0	23.8	37.3	0	12.1	0	3.5	0	0	25.8
Forest Heath	0	0	4.5	50.5	0.3	0	0	7.4	0	0	0	20
Ipswich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	0	0	63.3	33.4	0	0	1.2	19.6	0	0	0	74
St Edmundsbury	30.2	0	0	52.7	27.7	0	0	26.8	0	0	0	13.3
Suffolk Coastal	9.27	0	0	16.64	0	26.97	0	25.16	0	0	0	0.96
Waveney	20.47	30.13	5.29	24.84	1.38	0	0	3.3	4.38	37.74	1.39	10.50
Suffolk Total	75.64	37.03	73.09	201.88	66.68	26.97	13.3	82.26	7.88	37.74	1.39	144.56

Note:- The term “take-up” refers to the granting of planning permission, not necessarily the implementation of that consent.

Of the 791.66ha of agricultural land allocated for some form of development in mid 1996, 54% or 428.7 ha of this land remained without permission in mid 2000. When broken down by land classification this represents 201.88ha of housing land, 82.26ha of employment land and 144.56ha of other land remaining.

The most notable 1999-2000 take-up of land, was that for housing in Mid Suffolk. The 63.3 ha area represents 72% of the total uptake in the county and 87% of the Suffolk's housing uptake. This high number is due to the gradual uptake of the Stowmarket Strategic Development Area's (SDA) for housing. The SDA comprises over 90ha of agricultural land to the North East of Stowmarket Town Centre allocated for a variety of employment and housing development in the local plan.

Housing land represented 83% of the 1999-2000 take up. This comprised predominantly of the Stowmarket SDA land, however smaller permissions were also approved in Waveney and Forest Heath. The dominance of housing development, especially over employment uptake, has not been seen in previous years. Between 1996 and 1999 housing and employment land lay within an approx. 10ha buffer of each other. The only significant uptake of employment land, in 1999-2000, was in Babergh, where the permissions granted in Hadleigh and Sudbury mean that the district's entire employment allocation is approved for development.

The majority of changes in the allocated area available for development can, at least in part, be explained by gradual uptake through the granting of consents. Where no change has occurred in allocations it may be explained by the continuing building on previous allocations. Between 1999 and 2000 no deletions or allocations have occurred due to the rolling forward of Authorities Development Plans.

Indicator AG2: Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agriculture refused

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
AG2	Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for *agriculture refused.	Number refused. 1999-00	14	0	0	8	3	48	6	1	80
		1998-99	9	1	0	5	5	8	8	4	40
		Percentage refused. 1999-00	27%	N/A	N/A	10%	9%	40%	13%	13%	22%
		1998-99	18%	4%	N/A	8%	20%	10%	20%	29%	14%
	*agriculture includes forestry and woodland, and studland	Denominator = All 1999-00	52	32	N/T	78	33	121	48	8	372
		Applications for 1998-99	49	23	N/T	64	25	79	41	14	295
		development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agricultural purposes.									

The indicator was refined after the first year to concern itself with only that land currently used for agricultural purposes, rather than simply within rural areas. In the past year applications monitored have increased by 26% from 295 to 372. In addition to this there will be a number of applications proposed within the rural area of the county that do not have any impact upon agricultural land whatsoever. Such applications would include, for example, development on disused rural land, new developments within existing residential curtilages, land currently used for leisure use, for example, playing fields or land in commercial use.

The indicator AG2 is now concerned with measuring prevention of the loss of agricultural land or woodland from development. New indicators will show the amount of residential development that occurs on greenfield land, but this indicator (AG2) is intended to examine the wider picture, encompassing not only residential, but commercial, community and other uses.

The 80 applications refused in the past year all involved the potential loss of agricultural land.

Across the county as a whole, 50% of refusals triggering the indicator were residential applications (40 applications) Of these 13 were for change of use to residential curtilage. A further 30% of refusals were for commercial activity (24 applications.) All refusals prevented development of 88.6 ha. of agricultural land (Of which 68.0 ha. was for sand and gravel extraction at Bucklesham in Suffolk Coastal.)

Indicator AG3: Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land used for agriculture approved.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
AG3	Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for *agriculture approved.	Number approved 1999-00	38	32	0	70	30	73	42	7	292	
		1998-99	40	22	0	59	20	71	33	10	255	
		Percentage approved 1999-00	73%	100%	N/A	90%	91%	60%	88%	88%	78%	
		1998-99	82%	96%	N/A	92%	80%	90%	80%	71%	86%	
	*agriculture includes forestry and woodland, and studland.	Denominator = All applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agricultural purposes.	1999-00	52	32	0	78	33	121	48	8	372
		1998-99	49	23	0	64	25	79	41	14	295	

This indicator is the reverse of AG2, as refined, dealing only with applications on land currently used for agriculture, rather than simply being in a rural area. Although the 292 applications approved in the past year show a slight increase on the numbers for 1998-1999 (255) the percentage of the total applications of this type approved has fallen to 78%. It is interesting to note that the number of applications approved in rural areas in the previous last year was about double that for applications approved only on agricultural land. This clearly reflects how pressure for development in rural areas is of a diverse nature and not limited to pressure for take up of agricultural land.

Of the 292 applications approved 291 were on agricultural land whilst 1 was on woodland. Of the approvals on agricultural land 138 (47%) were commercial; 69 being for agricultural related developments, for example, mushroom growing tunnels, piggery buildings, whilst the remaining 69 approvals related to commercial developments not necessarily related to the agricultural unit. These non-agriculture related commercial approvals show how the farming economy of the rural areas is diversifying. Within Suffolk Coastal the majority of the 12 non-agriculture related commercial approvals were for the conversion of existing barns to employment and holiday use.

Whilst commercial approvals accounted for over half of all consents on agricultural land a further 94 (32%) were residential. Care should be taken with this figure however, as it does not necessarily infer new residential units on farmland. The majority of residential approvals monitored involve the conversion of agricultural buildings, particularly barns, to residential use, annexes and amenity rooms, and for the change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage. Within Suffolk Coastal, of the 19 residential approvals, one was for new build (for agricultural occupation), and one for sheltered accommodation (6 units) . The remainder were mainly for barn conversions (5 applications), and change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage (6 applications totalling 0.5ha).

Concern over the change of use applications within Suffolk Coastal District, (in relation to concern for the potential impact upon the character of the countryside rather than the uptake of agricultural land,) has resulted in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan First Alteration including a new policy. The existence of this new policy may partly explain the high refusal rate for this type of application in Suffolk Coastal (out of a total of 19 applications for change of use to residential curtilage, nearly 60% were refused).

In all about 200 ha. will be affected by the approvals, individual areas being generally quite small. Three applications have been approved which will result in the loss of larger areas of agricultural land. Two applications in Suffolk Coastal have been approved for the creation of wildlife habitat (wetlands at Minsmere Nature Reserve and mudflats/saltmarsh at Trimley St. Martin – loss from these proposals will total nearly 50ha. although this must be seen in the context of positive benefits accruing from these proposals. In Waveney District a waste water treatment centre at Corton to serve the Lowestoft area, will result in the loss of 17.5 ha.

Landscape

Indicator L1: Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas refused

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
L1	Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas refused.	Number refused	1999-00	19	2	N/T	5	6	41	13	1	87
			1998-99	..	5	N/T	9	1	24	12	2	53
			1997-98	15	0	N/T	7	4	26	12	2	66
		Percentage refused	1999-00	15%	5%	n/a	10%	15%	18%	15%	10%	15%
			1998-99	n/a	16%	n/a	18%	5%	12%	14%	15%	13%
			1997-98	12%	0%	n/a	16%	11%	10%	15%	7%	11%
		Denominator = total number Of determined applications in designated landscape areas.	1999-00	126	38	N/T	51	39	226	89	10	579
			1998-99	n/a	32	N/T	49	20	201	86	13	401
			1997-98	122	13	N/T	45	35	252	79	28	574

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator L1 measures the number of applications refused in designated landscape areas, against the objective of protecting and enhancing areas of recognised landscape quality. Within the county designated landscapes consist of national designations, namely:

- The Broads, covering an area of 2,950 hectares in Waveney; and
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, covering 46,963 hectares of the county, contained within Suffolk Coastal (70%), Babergh (19%), Waveney (10%) and Ipswich (1%). The first three local authorities also have Heritage Coast, the entirety of which lies within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There is also a local designation, in the form of Special Landscape Areas that covers approximately 79,658 hectares of the County. All local authorities with the exception of Ipswich contain such designations. The Indicator does not monitor decisions within the area of Local Landscape Value within Forest Heath.

The number of application and the refusal rate has remained fairly consistent from 1999-2000. Overall there is a consistent approach across the county towards applications in designated landscape areas.

The high demoninator in Suffolk Coastal could partly be explained by the large area of AONB and SLA in that district, which includes the town of Alderburgh and the large villages of Walderswick and Orford. This also applies to a lesser extent in Waveney where Southwold and Reydon lie within the AOND.

Consequently many developments which have no impact on the landscape and/or are in existing settlements have been approved where they do not contravene other planning policies. The result is that the proportion of refusals in designated landscape areas is lower than it might have been. Applications for telecommunication masts feature quite prominently in this indicator this year. In Babergh 3 applications for such structures have been refused, whilst in Suffolk Coastal 5 have been turned down. This reflects the Districts' concern regarding the siting of such structures in sensitive locations without prior evidence being submitted that there are no suitable alternative sites in less sensitive locations.

Analysis of the figures shows that:

- Overall 37% of refusals triggering L1 were perceived to have been likely to have an adverse affect on the landscape designation within which they were set.
- Of the 87 refusals 37 (43%) were in urban areas and 50 (57%) in rural areas;
- In the urban areas 14% of refusals incorporated landscape reasons in the decision notice;
- In the rural areas 54% of refusals incorporated landscape reasons in the decision notice;

In summary landscape reasons for refusal are nearly four times as likely to feature in decision notices for refusals in the rural areas than is the case for urban refusals in designated landscape areas.

Indicator L2: Number and percentage of applications in designated areas approved

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
L2	Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas approved.	Number approved	1999-00	107	36	N/T	46	33	185	76	9	492
			1998-99	..	27	N/T	40	19	177	74	11	348
			1997-98	107	13	N/T	38	31	226	67	26	508
		Percentage approved	1999-00	85%	95%	N/A	90%	85%	82%	85%	90%	85%
			1998-99	N/A	84%	N/A	82%	95%	88%	86%	85%	87%
			1997-98	88%	100%	N/A	84%	89%	90%	85%	93%	89%
		Denominator = total number of determined applications in designated landscape areas.	1999-00	126	38	N/T	51	39	226	89	10	579
			1998-99	N/T	32	N/T	49	20	201	86	13	401
			1997-98	122	13	N/T	45	35	252	79	28	574

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator L2 measures the number of applications approved in designated landscape areas, against the objective of protecting and enhancing areas of recognised landscape quality. It is triggered by all authorities except Ipswich Borough.

As the reverse of indicator L1, the results here are relatively consistent across the county. The high proportion of approvals is explained by the indicator picking up *all* planning applications within designated landscape areas, which includes those within existing settlements - this helps to explain the high denominator in Suffolk Coastal which contains a large area of AONB.

Analysis shows that:

- 16% of all approvals were for residential use within urban areas;
- 9% of all approvals were for commercial development within urban areas;
- a further 11% of all approved development (i.e. community, recreation facilities, and "other") was in urban areas;
- 20% of all the approvals were for residential use in rural areas;
- 22% of all the approvals were for commercial development in rural areas;
- a further 22% of all approved development (i.e. community, recreation facilities, minerals and waste developments and "other") was in rural areas;

This means that 64% of all approved development (492 applications) in designated landscape areas was on a rural site but was not considered likely to adversely affect the character of its respective landscape, in line with Structure and Local Plan policies.

Indicator L3: Number and area of historic parks and gardens lost or potentially damaged as a result of development

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L3	Number and area of historic parks and gardens lost or potentially damaged as a result of development.	Number of approvals within 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	3	5	N/T	N/T	9
		1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	7	N/T	N/T	7
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	11	N/T	N/T	13

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L3 measures the impact of approved development on historic parks and gardens, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features. The indicator has been reworded from this year to include the word 'potentially'. As a result of this the indicator is no longer a two stage indicator.

3 authorities triggered this indicator: Mid Suffolk, St Edmundsbury District Council and Suffolk Coastal.

Most of the applications relate to small areas that will be lost if development goes ahead. In some instances the proposal can be seen to have a positive benefit e.g. replacement of barbed wire fencing with traditional parkland rail at Heveningham Hall in Suffolk Coastal.

As in previous years the predominance of applications within Suffolk Coastal can be explained by the existence of its Supplementary Planning Guidance which contains a register of local parklands, as well as nationally registered parklands. Of the 5 applications which triggered the indicator in Suffolk Coastal, 4 were from the Supplementary Planning Guidance Register.

Indicator L4: Number and area of commons and village greens lost or potentially damaged as a result of development

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L4	Number and area of commons and village greens lost or potentially damaged as a result of development.	Number of approvals within defined 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	4	N/T	1	2	N/T	7
		1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1	3	N/T	N/T	5
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	12	N/T	N/T	12

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L4 measures the impact of approved development on commons and village greens, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features. The indicator has been reworded from this year to include the word 'potentially'. As a result of this the indicator is no longer a two stage indicator.

Only three authorities, Suffolk Coastal District, Mid Suffolk and Waveney have triggered this indicator in this monitoring period.

Mid Suffolk had four applications, which triggered this indicator. Two of the applications related to access. In one application the access cut across part of Mellis County Wildlife site and in the other across common land in a Special Landscape Area and visually important open space. The erection of a dwelling at Barton Road, Thurston on a site of a former chalk pit, designated as a County Wild Life Site resulted in the loss of a small area of common land. Also approval was given for the erection of a village sign on Mellis Common.

In Waveney District an application for a winter storage reservoir (1 ha.) at Outney Common, Bungay was approved.

Indicator L5: Number of applications refused in, or with a reason of refusal relating to, historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L5	Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens.	Number 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	3	N/T	N/T	3
		refused. 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	2
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	2

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L5 measures the number of applications for development on commons and village greens and historic parks and gardens refused, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features.

Only one authority, Suffolk Coastal District has triggered this indicator. Three applications were refused; an outline application for the erection of 5 houses was refused within Bawdsey Manor Parkland due to the adverse impact on the landscape of the parkland. An application for the construction of a vehicular access and car parking area to serve the bowls green within Grove park, Yoxford, was refused due to the loss of existing trees representing a serious visual intrusion adversely affecting the rural character of that historic parkland. Finally, the erection of a 15m telecommunications mast in Sudbourne Park was refused with the reasoning stating that the Council was not satisfied that the potential to locate the apparatus in other less sensitive locations had not been satisfactorily explored.

All of these applications that were refused were in historic parkland which were of county significance as opposed to being on the national register.

Indicator L6: Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L6	Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens.	Number 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	N/T	2
		Approved 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	1
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	2

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L6 measures the number of applications for development on commons and village greens and historic parks and gardens which are approved with safeguards against causing harm to them, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features.

Only St Edmundsbury Borough Council has triggered this indicator this year with 2 planning applications. The planning applications relate to a steel container located in grade II* Ickworth Park. The condition related to it being a temporary structure and not permanent. The other application related to vehicular access in a grade II park with conditions restricting the times when it can be used and the personnel who can use it.

Indicator L7: Number of applications outside designated landscape areas where loss of landscape features are cited as a reason for refusal

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L7	Number of applications outside designated landscape areas where loss of landscape features are cited as a reason for refusal.	Number 1999-00	5	N/T	N/T	6	4	4	0	0	19
		Refused 1998-99	2	N/T	N/T	7	4	2	0	1	16
		1997-98	0	N/T	N/T	10	2	4	4	0	20

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L7 measures the protection afforded to landscape which is not covered by a designation recognising its particular quality through planning decisions, against the objective of minimising the impact of development on the landscape in general.

The overall number of decisions triggering this indicator has not varied much from previous years.

Examples include:-

- An application for the erection of a single storey extension at Stonham Barns, Stonham Aspal. The reason for refusal was to protect a veteran, mature pollarded ash tree at least 100 years old covered by a tree preservation order that would not survive an extension within its crown and root spread.
- Erection of a dwelling and detached garage using existing vehicular access at Church Road, Beyton. The application would have resulted in improving the access point onto Church Road by removing a substantial length of hedging. It was consequently refused on the grounds that this would have a detrimental impact on the character of the conservation area in which access and driveway are located.

Wildlife habitats

Indicator E1: Number and area of sites designated as of nature conservation value potentially lost or damaged as a result of development.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC*	SCC	Suffolk
E1	Number and area of sites designated as of nature conservation value potentially lost or damaged as a result of development.	1999-00	N/T	N/T	1	2	1	1	2	N/T	7
		1998/99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	0
		1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1
		Number of approvals within designated areas or their consultation zones									
		1999-00	N/T	N/T	1	4	15	20	13	3	56
		1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	4	19	17	3	44
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	3	4	N/T	6	5	17

- includes sites within Broads Area.

These include nationally and internationally designated sites such as:

- Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites);
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs);
- National Nature reserves (NNRs); and
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Together with the sites of local importance:

- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); and
- County Wildlife Sites (CWS) – a non-statutory designation but protected by development plan policies.

The results for 1999-2000 show that in six of the eight authorities some development has been permitted in the designated sites or within respective consultation zones. Fifty-six applications were approved within such areas. Of those implemented, the application in St. Edmundsbury was for a mixed use

development; in Waveney, development ancillary to retail was approved, and a change of use of land was granted (both included mitigating conditions). The application in Suffolk Coastal was a change of use from agricultural land to mud flats/ salt marsh; and the applications in Mid Suffolk were for industrial and residential development.

Indicator E2: Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, sites designated as of nature conservation value

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E2	Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, sites designated as of nature conservation value.	Number refused	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1	1	N/T	3
			1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	1 + 3*	N/T	6
			1997/98	3	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1 + 3*	N/T	8

* Within Broads Authority area.

This indicator records the number of planning applications that have been refused in, or would otherwise indirectly affect, sites of nature conservation value, meeting the objectives of protecting and enhancing important wildlife habitats and maintaining and increasing biodiversity in Suffolk.

Three applications across the districts in Suffolk triggered this indicator in 1999-2000. Suffolk Coastal's application was on a County Wildlife Site. The application in Waveney District was for commercial development and cited impact on a designated area as the reason for refusal. The application in St Edmundsbury Borough was for residential development.

Indicator E3: Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions, agreements or informative notes which specifically relate to a site designated as of nature conservation value

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E3	Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to a site designated as of nature conservation value.	Approved	1999-00	N/T	1	N/T	2	2	6	2	2	15
			1998/99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	4	5
			1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	5	5

Indicator E3 measures the number of developments approved which have safeguards imposed against causing harmful effects to areas of nature conservation value.

Fifteen applications and all the authorities except Babergh District and Ipswich Borough triggered this indicator in 1999-2000. Suffolk Coastal District Council had the greatest number of applications, half of which included conditions to minimise impact on over wintering birds. Neither of the two applications at St Edmundsbury had species specific conditions. The applications in Waveney District involved the creation of a new cycling and walking route and the other for coastal protection works. Both applications had safeguarding conditions for the protection of the landscape.

Both applications determined by Suffolk County Council involved minerals/ waste development. One application for sand and gravel extraction included safeguarding conditions for the affected SSSI. The other application (waste) included conditions to ensure the protection of rapturewort.

Indicator E4: Number of applications which include reasons for refusal relating to protected species

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
E4	Number of applications which include reasons for refusal relating to protected species.	Number refused.	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	4	N/T	N/T	N/T	4
			1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	3
			1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
		Number of refusals in areas designated as being of nature conservation value.	1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			1998/99	1	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
		Number of refusals not in areas designated as being of nature conservation value.	1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	4
			1998/99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	1

This indicator was not triggered in the first year of monitoring but in 1998/99 three applications were refused on grounds of threat to a protected species. In 1999-2000 four applications (the same pair of applications were refused twice) in St Edmundsbury Borough Council triggered this application. They were refused because of their potential impact on Great Crested Newts.

The refusal of these applications demonstrates that species need not be located within designated areas to ensure their protection.

Indicator E5: Number of applications which include conditions or agreements relating to the safeguarding of protected species

Indicator		Information			BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E5	Number of applications which include conditions or agreements relating to the safeguarding of protected species.	Number approved	1999-00	6	N/T	N/T	8	2	10	8	4	38	
			1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	1	3	N/T	6	
			1997/98	1	N/T	N/T	3	N/T	1	4	N/T	9	

This indicator measures the number of approvals made with safeguards against harming protected species. Across the county as a whole, 38 such approvals were made, protecting similar species to last year. Of the 38 approvals 23 of the conditions specifically relate to bats, 3 to barn owls, 2 to water voles and great crested newts, 1 to stag beetles, 1 to rapturewort and 2 general conditions referring to the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

In addition to these applications there were a further five with conditions relating to breeding, nesting & over-wintering birds, wildfowl etc. in Suffolk Coastal District.

Over half of the applications at Waveney District were for the conversion of barns to residential use. A condition commonly cited with these applications was that 'no development shall commence until an owl hole and barn owl nesting box had been installed.' These approvals, while contributing to the objectives of protecting and enhancing important wildlife habitats and maintaining biodiversity in Suffolk, show that the presence of protected species need not necessarily result in a planning application being refused, as protective measures can be included in the approval of a development.

An improvement of this indicator would be to follow up the effectiveness of the conditions or agreements imposed on any development once it has been implemented. This is to be investigated further.

Indicator E6: New habitat provided in association with applications where an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required or voluntarily produced.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E6	New habitat provided in association with applications where an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required or voluntarily produced.	Number of approvals where 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	1	3
		New habitat is provided. 1998/99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	2	4
		1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	2	4

Two applications in Suffolk Coastal District triggered this indicator. The applications involved the creation of wetlands and the removal of a section of bank as part of a managed retreat scheme.

The County Council application relates to the restoration of an existing habitat at Corton, rather than the creation of a completely new habitat.

This is now to be reported on a 5 yearly basis.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment chapter of “*Suffolk’s Environment ... towards sustainable development*” defined indicators covering four aspects of the built environment: conservation areas and listed buildings; archaeology; town centres, and the quality of new development. In total 25 indicators were analysed.

New indicators:

BE7: Number of applications refused because of adverse impact on a TPO.

Indicators not reported this year are:

TC2: Floorspace (sq.m) in town centre by land use; **Information not collected on consistent basis.**

TC8: Pedestrian flows in each town centre; **not reported – data not available on consistent basis.**

BE5: Number of applications for work covered by TPOs within villages and urban areas lost each year; not reported –deleted

DL1: Area of derelict land by district; **deleted.**

DL2: Area (ha) of redevelopment sites by proposed use; deleted.

Key findings

Analysis of those indicators reported on suggests that with regard to conservation areas and listed buildings:

- Around 5% of Listed Buildings in Suffolk have had consent granted for works on them in the monitoring period;
- 4% of applications monitored in Conservation Areas were for demolition of non-listed buildings;
- In Ipswich, 79% of Listed Building Consents and Planning Consents were on commercial buildings, compared to 33% on average across the County. This reflects the role and history of Ipswich and the nature of its listed buildings;
- 23% of Advertisement Consents were refused in Conservation Areas, compared with 9% of residential and 9% of commercial applications affecting listed buildings or conservation areas; and
- 20 Article 4(2) Directions in conservation areas are in place across Suffolk, covering approximately 7,000 buildings.

With regard to town centres:

- The decrease in the number of A1 units reported in the previous period has continued during this year at a similar rate. However, whereas in 1999 this was counteracted by increases in A2 and A3 units, these uses have also experienced overall decreases.
- Suffolk has seen a drop of 28% in the number of vacant units within its town centres since the baseline year. The total figure has remained fairly constant over the past two years. The experiences of individual towns, however, have been fairly mixed.
- The number of multiple retailers throughout Suffolk's towns has increased substantially during last year, by some 10%. This may be partly due to the fact that the list of retailers included in the survey has been expanded.
- This past year saw rental values levelling off in the County's Town Centres, with no changes occurring in any of the towns covered.
- Generally, parking provision has shifted away from long stay towards short stay. This is most evident in Hadleigh, as well as in Ipswich, where this trend has continued further over the past year. The provision of park and ride facilities serving Ipswich town centre has been increased.
- TC11 was refined after the first year to concern itself with only those applications that were likely to have any impact on the viability/vitality of town centres. As a result applications monitored have decreased substantially with 10 applications triggering the indicator in the past year.
- There were 10 major commercial applications outside Town Centres approved during 1999-2000, compared with 8 in the preceding year.

Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings

Suffolk's rich built heritage is reflected in the large number of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings that exist within the County. Conservation Areas are "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Listed Buildings are "buildings of special architectural or historic interest". Many of the listed buildings in Suffolk exist within Conservation Areas. The designation of Conservation Areas is the responsibility of local authorities. However the final decision as to whether to "list" an individual building lies with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. It is a long held objective of planning policy to seek to control standards of development, which would have a material adverse impact on either listed buildings or conservation areas.

Ten indicators have been devised to monitor Suffolk's conservation areas and listed buildings. Indicators C1-C6 and C10 are concerned with monitoring the influence of local planning authorities in preserving and enhancing conservation areas. Indicators 1-4 monitor the development control decisions made by local planning authorities whilst Indicators 5, 6 and 10 monitor other initiatives taken to protect and enhance conservation areas. The protection of individual listed buildings is considered in the first two indicators and C7, C8 and C9.

Indicator C10 is a new indicator this year and monitors the number of Article 4(2) Directions in conservation areas. An additional indicator, 'Number and Area of Conservation Areas', has been developed and will be reported next year.

It should be noted that decisions on householder applications are not included in indicators C3 and C4.

Indicator C1: Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications Approved

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
C1	Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications Approved	Number 1999-00	199	35	57	225	164	147	118	1	946
		Approved 1998-99	225	26	48	240	193	146	95	N/T	973
		1997-98	205	11	80	235	172	169	92	N/T	964
		% 1999-00	95%	88%	89%	95%	94%	99%	89%	100%	94%
		Approved 1998-99	95%	90%	98%	94%	94%	96%	85%	N/A	94%
		1997-98	97%	79%	92%	91%	94%	98%	88%	N/A	94%
	Of which Listed Building Consent Applications	1999-00	189	24	53	215	161	142	97	1	882
		1998-99	222	26	42	235	193	135	85	N/A	938
		1997-98	192	8	55	228	170	157	76	N/A	886
	Conservation Area Consent Applications	1999-00	10	11	4	10	3	5	21	N/A	64
		1998-99	3	0	6	5	0	11	10	N/A	35
		1997-98	13	3	25	7	2	12	16	N/A	78

Indicator C3: Number of Planning Applications and Advertisement Consents in Conservation Areas Approved

C3	Number of Planning Applications and Advertisement Consents in Conservation Areas approved	Number Approved	1999-00	99	62	120	106	106	111	93	4	701
			1998-99	205	49	100	93	92	125	89	1	754
			1997-98	171	25	104	104	98	127	68	5	702
		% approved	1999-00	79%	70%	92%	85%	88%	90%	91%	100%	85%
			1998-99	94%	86%	91%	84%	87%	93%	90%	100%	90%
			1997-98	90%	86%	90%	87%	88%	91%	76%	100%	88%
	Of which Planning Applications		1999-00	93	55	98	98	101	99	81	4	629
			1998-99	194	49	79	87	86	107	86	1	689
			1997-98	167	24	69	100	92	115	58	5	630
	Advertisement Consents		1999-00	6	7	22	8	5	12	12	0	72
			1998-99	11	0	21	6	6	18	3	0	65
			1997-98	4	1	35	4	6	12	10	0	72

	Total Number and % of Listed Building Consents, Conservation Area Consents, Planning Applications and advertisements approved	298	97	177	331	270	258	211	5	1645
		430	75	148	333	285	271	184	1	1727
		376	36	184	339	270	296	160	5	1666
		89%	76%	91%	92%	91%	95%	90%	N/A	90%
		95%	87%	93%	91%	92%	95%	87%	N/A	92%
		94%	84%	91%	90%	92%	95%	82%	N/A	91%

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

The results of indicators C1 and C3 have been presented above for ease of analysis. Planning applications and advertisements in Conservation Areas accounted for 16% of the total number of planning applications (excluding householder) determined in the County in 1998/99. This compares with 17% in 1997/98. The figures shown above do not give the full picture of applications determined that may affect Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas because they do not include householder applications (approximately 40% of the total determined in Suffolk in both 1997-98 and 1998-99), planning applications affecting Listed Buildings not in Conservation Areas or those advertised as possibly affecting the setting of a Listed Building or Conservation Area (known as Section 67 and Section 73 applications). In 1999/00, of the 1825 Listed Building, Conservation Area, Advertisement Consents and planning applications determined, 1645 applications (90%) were approved (92% in 1998/99). These figures compare with 91% of all planning applications approved in Suffolk in 1998/99 and 92% in 1997/98 (source DETR statistics of planning applications). A high rate of approval of applications may not necessarily imply that change, which is

detrimental to listed buildings or conservation areas, is being permitted. Approvals may be granted with conditions to protect the Listed Building or Conservation Area. The rate may be influenced by the high degree of awareness of the designations, which deters undesirable applications and by local authorities advising and negotiating with applicants to achieve acceptable proposals.

There are 16,431 listed buildings in Suffolk. In 1999/2000, 882 applications for listed building consent were approved. It would therefore appear that up to 5% of listed buildings have had consent granted for works on them. However, as more than one listed building consent may be granted on a building within a year, this percentage is only approximate. It should also be noted that a proportion of consents issued might not be implemented.

Almost twice as many applications (73) for Conservation Area Consent (demolition of non-listed buildings) were determined in 1999/2000, as in the previous year (41), representing 4% of the total applications monitored in Conservation Areas. 88% (64) were approved, a slightly higher rate than in 1998/1999 (85%). Notably, the highest numbers were in the Districts with significant size/number of urban Conservation Areas. Further analysis should be possible after data is available for several years. However, the impact of the Shimizu case (see below) on this indicator will need to be considered.

In Conservation Areas planning permission can be required for development which in other areas would not be necessary as a result of an Article 4 Direction. The figures in C3 cover all such development plus what would normally be required. The overall number of planning applications in Conservation Areas approved has fallen back to the 1997/98 level. This is largely due to a significant reduction in the number for Babergh District. Last year there was an increase in the number of approvals. This was thought to be due to the number of Article 4 Directions being served in Conservation Areas, resulting in the submission of more applications, many of which would not be particularly contentious. As some works which require Listed Building Consent will also need planning consent there may be some overlap between the figures in indicators C1 and C3, and C2 and C4. The numbers monitored under indicators C1 and C2 are greater than those in C3 and C4 because certain works which require Listed Building Consent do not require planning consent, many listed buildings exist outside Conservation Areas, and householder applications are not counted in indicators C3 and C4.

In 1999/00, of the 726 planning applications determined in Conservation Areas 629 (87%) were approved, slightly less than in 1998/99. 93 advertisement consents were determined, considerably more than in 1998/99 (73) and 77% were approved, considerably less than in 1998/99 (89%).

Type of application		Listed Building Consent and Planning Applications – Details of Approvals								
		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Residential	1999-00	197	35	26	235	156	149	73	N/A	871
	1998-99	318	28	26	241	159	146	85	N/A	1003
	1997-98	280	8	22	243	167	168	68	N/A	956
Commercial	1999-00	51	30	119	58	86	71	87	1	503
	1998-99	85	39	74	53	99	69	71	1	491
	1997-98	57	16	99	72	83	80	47	N/A	454
Other (inc. all other categories within proposed use field)	1999-00	34	14	6	20	20	21	18	4	137
	1998-99	13	8	21	28	21	27	15	N/A	133
	1997-98	22	11	3	13	12	24	19	5	109

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

The detailed breakdown of the Listed Building Consents and planning applications approved above shows that in 1998/99, 871 (58%) were residential, 503 (33%) were commercial, and 137 (9%) were “other” types. Again this year, the picture for Ipswich Borough was different with 79% (61% in 1998/99) of approvals on commercial buildings. This probably reflects the role and history of Ipswich and the nature of its listed buildings rather than any difference in development control practice.

Notes

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment, Sept 1994) sets down government guidance on the conservation of the historic built environment.

Listed Building Consent is required for work which would materially affect the historic or architectural character of a listed building. This includes internal and external works. Other buildings or structures within the curtilage of a listed building also normally require listed building consent before work can be carried out on them. Most ecclesiastical buildings in ecclesiastical use and Crown buildings are normally exempt from the requirement for listed building consent, although there is a requirement for them to be referred to the local authority for consultation.

Many buildings which add to the special character and local distinctiveness of Conservation Areas do not have the protection of being listed. The demolition of non listed buildings does not normally require planning permission. However, conservation area designation introduces control over the demolition of such buildings within Conservation Areas. Following the Shimizu case in February 1997, this is interpreted as meaning the destruction, or substantial destruction, of buildings. As a result of this Conservation Area consents are only likely to be required where the substantial demolition of a non-listed building or structure within a conservation area is proposed.

In addition to controls over demolition, certain conservation areas are subject to article 4 directions whereby planning permission is required which in other areas would not be necessary. Section 67 and 73 (of the Planning and Listed Building Conservation Act 1990) applications are those advertised as possibly affecting the setting of a Listed building or Conservation Area.

Indicator C2: Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications Refused

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
C2	Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications refused	Number 1999-00	11	5	7	12	11	2	14	N/T	62
		Refused 1998-99	11	3	1	15	12	6	17	N/T	65
		1997-98	7	3	7	23	11	3	12	N/T	66
	% refused	1999-00	5%	13%	11%	5%	6%	1%	11%	N/A	6%
		1998-99	5%	10%	2%	6%	6%	4%	15%	N/A	6%
		1997-98	3%	21%	8%	9%	6%	2%	12%	N/A	6%
	<i>Of which Listed Building Consent Applications</i>	1999-00	8	2	7	12	11	2	11	N/A	53
		1998-99	11	3	1	15	11	5	12	N/A	58
		1997-98	7	3	4	23	11	3	9	N/A	60
	<i>Conservation Area Consents</i>	1999-00	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	N/A	9
		1998-99	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	N/A	6
		1997-98	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	N/A	6

Indicator C4: Number of Planning Applications and Advertisement Consents in Conservation Areas Refused

C4	Number of Planning Applications and Advertisement Consents in Conservation Areas refused	Number Refused	1999-00	26	26	11	18	15	13	9	N/T	118
			1998-99	14	8	10	18	14	9	10	N/T	83
			1997-98	19	4	12	16	14	12	22	N/T	99
		% refused	1999-00	21%	30%	8%	15%	12%	10%	9%	N/A	14%
			1998-99	6%	14%	9%	16%	13%	7%	10%	N/A	10%
			1997-98	10%	14%	10%	13%	12%	9%	24%	N/A	12%
	<i>Of which Planning Applications</i>		1999-00	24	23	5	17	9	13	6	N/T	97
			1998-99	14	8	6	16	14	9	8	N/T	75
			1997-98	19	2	5	13	5	11	18	N/T	73
	<i>Advertisement Consents</i>		1999-00	2	3	6	1	6	0	3	N/A	21
			1998-99	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	N/A	8
			1997-98	0	2	7	3	9	1	4	N/A	26

	Total Number of Listed Building Consents, Conservation Area Consents, Planning Applications and advertisements refused	37	31	18	30	26	15	23	n/a	180
		25	11	11	33	26	15	27	n/a	148
		26	7	19	39	25	15	34	n/a	165
		11%	24%	9%	8%	9%	5%	10%	n/a	10%
		5%	13%	7%	9%	8%	5%	13%	n/a	8%
		6%	16%	9%	10%	8%	5%	18%	n/a	9%

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicators C2 and C4 show the numbers of refusals for various types of applications in Conservation Areas and all the provisos made about the figures in C1 and C4 again apply. A total of 180 (10%) applications for Listed Building, Conservation Area, Advertisement Consent and planning applications were refused in Suffolk between 1999 and 2000. 97 (13%) planning applications in Conservation Areas were refused. Both these absolute figures are significantly higher than those in 1998/99 (148 (8%) and 75 (10%) respectively).

The detailed information of types of Listed Building Consent and planning applications considered (see table below) shows that the number of refusals (150) has increased since last year (133). Of these 59% were again for residential development. As in the previous two years, more planning applications were refused for residential development than for commercial or advertisement consent. However, the percentage refusal rate for advertisement consent

applications in conservation areas (23%) is significantly higher than for residential (9%) and commercial (9%) development affecting listed buildings or conservation areas.

Type of application		Listed Building Consent and Planning Applications – Details of Refusals								
		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Residential	1999-00	23	14	2	21	11	8	10	N/A	89
	1998-99	19	5	2	22	9	10	12	N/A	79
	1997-98	16	0	3	26	7	10	15	N/A	77
Commercial	1999-00	6	8	9	7	9	5	7	N/A	51
	1998-99	5	6	5	6	8	4	8	N/A	42
	1997-98	8	3	6	10	8	3	12	N/A	50
Other (includes all other categories within proposed use field)	1999-00	3	3	1	1	0	2	0	N/A	10
	1998-99	1	0	0	3	8	0	0	N/A	12
	1997-98	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	N/A	6

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator C5: Number of enhancement schemes in Conservation Areas

This indicator seeks to demonstrate the influence of the local planning authorities in actively enhancing the quality of the historic built environment by public works. The list of schemes excludes work to historic buildings but concentrates on the wider enhancement schemes carried out by the local authorities and other statutory bodies.

The number of enhancement schemes undertaken need to be considered in the context that in November 1996 there were a total of 157 Conservation Areas in Suffolk of which 23 had completed Conservation Area Appraisals and a further 79 had Interim Statements completed. This information is being monitored on a 5 year basis and it is not intended to update it until 2001.

Number of enhancement schemes completed in Conservation Areas					
District/Borough	Completed 1995/96	Completed 1996/97	Completed 1997/98	Completed 1998/99	Completed 1999/00
Babergh	8	3	3	3	1
Forest Heath	2	1	0	0	0
Ipswich	0	1	2	1	0
Mid Suffolk	2	2	0	1	3
St Edmundsbury	2	5	5	2	0
Suffolk Coastal	7	7	4	1	7
Waveney	6	2	2	1	0
Suffolk	27	26	16	9	11

Although intended to be reported every 5 years, the annual information for this indicator is published here for information. It shows a fall in the number of enhancement schemes being completed in the County, largely due to a significant reduction in English Heritage funding coming through Conservation Area Partnerships (CAPs). This year details of the value of the schemes completed and their nature have been included to make the indicator more meaningful.

Enhancement schemes completed in Conservation Areas 1999/00				
District/Borough	Name of Scheme	Description of Scheme	Agencies Involved	Cost of Scheme
Babergh	Church Street, Church Walk & Queen Street, Hadleigh Repaving and Enhancement Scheme	Repaving in natural stone kerbs, flags and granite setts to enhance both the churchyard and two approaches to it from the town centre of Hadleigh.	Heritage Lottery Fund Babergh District Council Suffolk County Council	£123,383
Mid Suffolk	Eye Town Centre Enhancement	Repaving and replanting of and around Eye Town Hall, new curbing and signs to include Town Trail Signs	Mid Suffolk DC Heritage Lottery Suffolk County Council Rural Development Commission European Regional Development Fund	£262,480
	Laxfield and Stradbroke Generic undergrounding scheme	Relaying paving/street lighting, sign and tourist information sign	Eastern Electricity British Telecom Mid Suffolk DC European Regional Development Fund Rural Development Commission Suffolk County Council Others	£406,566
	Woolpit undergrounding (Rags Lane)	Undergrounding of cables by Eastern Electricity	Mid Suffolk DC Suffolk County Council Suffolk Housing Society Woolpit Parish Council Eastern Electricity	N/A
Suffolk Coastal District Council	Wolsey Gardens Lookout, Felixstowe Conservation Area	Refurbish existing sea viewing area with new seats, interpretative information, planting, telescope, soft landscaping, plaque, railings. Fun theme of nautical images.	Suffolk Coastal DC Felixstowe Town Council Port of Felixstowe Authority	£23,000
	Orwell Road (north), Felixstowe Conservation Area	Phase 1 of a scheme to recreate Edwardian Boulevard known as "The Broadway". Repaving, 3 street trees and a Millennium plaque.	Suffolk Coastal DC Felixstowe Town Council Suffolk County Council	£8,000

	Aldeburgh Alleys, Aldeburgh Conservation Area	Project to raise the profile of the alleys for visitors. Installation of ornamental "ship's wheel/ware", railings and gunmetal plaques describing Aldeburgh's nautical history.	Suffolk Coastal DC Aldeburgh Town Council East of England Development Agency	£8000
	Oakley Square and King Street Car Parks, Aldeburgh	Refurbishment of two public car parks with new paving, cycle parking, ornamental railings and signs.	Suffolk Coastal DC East of England Development Council	£61,000
	Visitor Management Project, Bramfield Conservation Area	Project to improve business prospects in the village by encouraging more visitors. Undergrounding of overhead wires, creation of visitor car park/picnic area at village hall, new street lights, new post sign and improvements to village green/shelter, layby for village shop, leaflet for visitors.	Suffolk Coastal DC Suffolk County Council Bramfield Parish Council Bramfield Village Hall Management Committee European Union	£71,500
	Snape Bridge Green, Snape Malting Conservation Area	Reclamation of large green from vehicular erosion/protection from future erosion and creation of residents parking area.	Suffolk Coastal DC Suffolk County Council Tunstall Parish Council	£4,000
	Framlingham Conservation Area	Enhancement of the Market Hill through resurfacing, kerbing, new footways, new plinth to town sign, new cycle stands, bins and seats; enhancement to the Castle entrance; new signage throughout the town; new footways; a mini-roundabout and zebra crossing.	Suffolk County Council (SCC led) Suffolk Coastal DC Framlingham Town Council Eastern Electricity Pubmaster Objective 5b	£400,000+

Indicator C6: Number of joint funded Conservation Area initiatives in the County and their achievements

This indicator was intended to monitor the success of the Suffolk local planning authorities in securing Conservation Area Partnership (CAP) agreements, that is funding from English Heritage. Conservation Area Partnerships, established in 1994, were a form of agreement between English Heritage and, normally, a local planning authority. Such agreements identified specific problems and opportunities within an area and established a programme of work and funding for a fixed period, usually 3 years. No new Conservation Area Partnerships were designated after April 1998 as the scheme was phased out. Many of the Suffolk schemes came to an end in March 1999. A total of eleven CAP schemes have been successfully implemented across the County, making a considerable impact in terms of protecting and enhancing the built environment.

As the Conservation Area Partnerships have come to an end this indicator will in future be used to report on new schemes that are available. The new Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) offered by English Heritage is the latest scheme, introduced in April 1998. HERS tend to cover smaller areas than CAPs and seek to demonstrate that conservation led change has a role to play in contributing to social and economic regeneration and in the creation of safe and sustainable communities. They focus on neighbourhood businesses, high street and corner shops - employment generating activities important to community life and prosperity and where area based assistance with building repairs and enhancement will help local employment and encourage inward investment. These schemes run for 3 years and English Heritage funds must be matched by local sources either from local authorities or via the Single Regeneration Budget or European Regional Development Fund. There was no bidding round in the first year of its operation but two schemes in Suffolk (Newmarket and Halesworth) received funding.

Since April 1999 the scheme has been open to all authorities. Ipswich Borough have had a successful bid for the Fore Street area of Ipswich, involving 40 buildings of which 26 are Grade II or II*. Waveney District now has two successful bids; Halesworth and North Lowestoft, and Babergh District made a successful bid for Glemsford. (All these schemes, apart from the Ipswich scheme, due to contractual difficulties at English Heritage, have been operating since April 2000. The Ipswich scheme is due to commence in April 2001.

The Townscape Heritage Initiative offered by the Heritage Lottery Fund is another area-based grant scheme. A couple of Suffolk bids were made to this in 1998, but only 27 schemes were funded in total, of which 5 were in England. In 2000, Waveney made an unsuccessful bid for South Lowestoft. The bid was unsuccessful because it was not considered to be large or comprehensive enough and because of uncertainty, at that time, over the South Lowestoft Relief Road. Given the recent announcement on the Relief Road funding, a larger and more comprehensive bid will be resubmitted in 2001/02,

Indicator C7: Number of Listed Buildings

Listed buildings are buildings of special architectural or historic merit. The listing of buildings began in 1947. Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Secretary of State for National Heritage has a statutory duty to compile a list, based on the advice of English Heritage. The listing of buildings is a means of conserving and enhancing our cultural heritage. The number of listed buildings can be used as a measure of the historic heritage. historic buildings are place in one of three grades to give an indication of their relative importance.

Grade I Buildings of exceptional interest.

Grade II* Buildings of particular importance and perhaps containing outstanding features.

Grade II Buildings of special interest which warrant every effort being made to preserve them.

The types of buildings listed are wide ranging from medieval farm buildings to examples of twentieth century architecture.

Indicator C7: Number of Listed Buildings (mid 2000)				
District/Borough	Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II	Total
Babergh	88	219	3379	3686
Forest Heath	12	22	444	478
Ipswich	9	33	566	608
Mid Suffolk*	85	191	3120	3396
St.Edmundsbury	98	160	2967	3225
Suffolk Coastal	59	168	2521	2748
Waveney	50	71	1523	1644
Total	401	864	14520	15785**

*These figures represent the number of listing entries for each Grade. Total number of buildings is 4042 but the breakdown by grade is not available.

** 16,431 if the number of listed buildings, as opposed to listing entries, is used for Mid Suffolk.

This indicator sets down the number of listed buildings as opposed to listing entries for the Suffolk Districts. The base line figures were compiled for December 1995 and at that time there were 15,476 listed buildings in Suffolk. Of these, 392 were Grade I, 838 Grade II* and 14,246 Grade II. The original intention was to report this indicator every 5 years and the table above sets down the figures for mid 2000. The total number of listed buildings has increased to 15,785. Of these, 401 are Grade I, 864 Grade II* and 14,520 Grade II. Most of the increase has been in the number of Grade II listed buildings, however, the greatest percentage increase has taken place in the Grade II* category, followed by Grade I. As changes to this indicator tend to occur annually, from now on the number of listed buildings will be reported each year.

Indicator C8: Number of Historic Buildings at Risk

The 1997 'Historic Buildings at Risk' Register published by the Suffolk local planning authorities included 132 buildings. A revised version of the Register was published in Spring 2000. The purpose of the Register is to draw attention to the relatively small number of Listed Buildings that are in poor condition, usually as a result of lack of maintenance or neglect. The revised Register is more comprehensive than previously but is not based on a full countywide survey. In England there are estimated to be 37,000 Buildings at Risk, 6% of the national total of Listed Buildings. The percentages in C8 show all Districts are below this figure.

Indicator C8 : Number of Historic Buildings at Risk						
	1997 Register	Removed from Register	Entered on Register	2000 Register	Number of Listed Buildings (as of mid 2000)	% of total Listed Buildings
Babergh	3	1	4	6	3,686	0.2%
Forest Heath	10	1	3	12	478	2.5%
Ipswich	10	4	0	6	608	1.0%
Mid Suffolk	45	15	10	40	4,042	1.0%
St Edmundsbury	23	9(1)	19	33	3,225	1.0%
Suffolk Coastal	29	6	14	37	2,748	1.3%
Waveney	12	1	8	19	1,644	1.2%
Suffolk	132	37(1)	58	153	16,431	0.9%

Note - Buildings removed from the register following demolition shown in brackets and included in other figures

37 buildings were removed from the At Risk Register between 1997 and 2000. Of these one was removed because of being demolished and three because they are now considered beyond repair. The other buildings removed from the list either had been fully repaired (24) or some repairs had taken place, sufficient to qualify for removal from the list, with further work required (9).

Indicator C9: Total cost of grant aided work to historic buildings and buildings in conservation areas

To further assess the influence of the local authorities on the condition of the historic built environment indicator C9 has been devised. The indicator is based on the financial year for the authorities i.e. 1st April - 31st March. Local Authority grants includes District Council plus County Council contributions. Total value of work includes local authority grants, grants from English Heritage and other grant sources including contributions from private individuals and sponsorship. It is intended that the indicator examines amount of grants paid rather than offered.

Total cost of grant aided work to historic buildings and buildings in conservation areas for the financial year 1999/00

District/Borough	Local Authority Grants	English Heritage Grants	Other Grants(e.g. Obj5b, SRB etc)	Contributions from private individuals	Total cost of work
Babergh	£10,000	£248,000*	-	-	£258,000
Forest Heath	£23,804	£33,589	0	£36,148	£93,541
Ipswich	£26,580	£96,400	0	£61,580	£184,560
Mid Suffolk	£10,000	£38,741	0	0	£48,741
St. Edmundsbury	£47,563	£17,563	0	0	£65,126
Suffolk Coastal	£2,500	0	0	0	£2,500
Waveney	£21,775	£74,303	£446,162	£278,870	£821,110
Total	£142,222	£508,596	£446,162	£376,598	£1,473,578

English Heritage/Other Grants/Contributions combined

This year all authorities have provided figures for grants paid, as opposed to offered. Also this year the figures have been split further, to differentiate between contributions from private individuals and those from other sources. Other grants can come from a wide range of bodies including European funding for the Objective 5b areas in Suffolk, so designated as they are experiencing economic and social difficulties. It is not possible to draw any general conclusions of a comparative nature between the Districts, as District Council funding can fluctuate widely depending on the type of projects going on in their area. However the 'total cost of works' to historic buildings and buildings in conservation areas has been gradually reducing since 1996. Local authority grants remain crucial in helping to lever in private sector contributions.

Indicator C10: Number of Article 4(2) Directions in Conservation Areas

This is a new indicator which will be reported every 5 years. Article 4(2) Directions are made under Article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and assist in maintaining the character of Conservation Areas. The designation of Article 4(2) Directions in Conservation Areas removes the usual rights to carry out certain types of works without planning permission. Types of works can include the replacement of windows, erection of fences, extensions to residential properties and removal of chimneys. This indicator will assist in analysing indicators C1 - C4.

Indicator C10 Number of Article 4(2) Directions (as of mid 2000)		
District/Borough	Number of Directions	Total number of properties covered
Babergh	3	N/A*
Forest Heath	0	0
Ipswich	2*	438**
Mid Suffolk	0	0
St Edmundsbury	8	315
Suffolk Coastal	0	0
Waveney	7	6000***
Total	20	6753

* The information is not readily available this year but will be reported in future monitoring reports.

** One Article 4 Direction (Christchurch St/Westerfield Rd) covering 175 buildings - draft operational

***This figure is an estimate (probably an underestimate). A more accurate figure will be provided next year.

As of mid 2000, 20 Article 4(2) Directions were in place in 4 Districts/Boroughs across Suffolk, covering approximately 7000 buildings.

Archaeology

The archaeological resources of Suffolk are an important part of the environmental stock of the County and its cultural heritage. The preservation of these resources is an essential element in securing sustainable development within the County - this is one objective of the Suffolk Development Plan. The aim of Development Plan policies is to ensure a representative sample of sites survives for future generations. The indicators here monitor development control decisions on planning applications which affect, or potentially affect archaeological sites.

The spatial distribution of archaeological sites of different periods varies – for example prehistoric settlement tends to favour river gravel terraces and avoid heavy clay; medieval settlement however is fairly universal with the modern human landscape being a direct descendant. As a consequence planning applications coincide more frequently with the more common medieval sites and urban areas. No particular class of archaeological site has suffered the adverse affects of development in this monitoring period.

Indicator A1: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with amendments to design, or working methods, to ensure preservation.

	Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with amendments to design, or working methods, to ensure preservation.	Number approved 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
	Number approved 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	1
	Percentage approved 1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Percentage approved 1998-99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	1%
	Denominator = All applications affecting known archaeological sites. 1999-00	12	26	4	12	44	37	5	2	142
	Denominator = All applications affecting known archaeological sites. 1998-99	9	7	7	10	13	16	10	1	73

In the majority of cases the pressure to preserve archaeology in situ is low, and re-design is normally only an option as a method of mitigation. The low figures for redesign can in part be accounted for by a general preference amongst developers to entertain as few design constraints as possible. However, a number of design amendments arise from pre-application discussions between developer and archaeologist, and will not figure in this audit.

Indicator A2: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.

Information			BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.	Number approved	1999-00	12	26	4	12	44	37	5	2	142
	Number approved	1998-99	9	7	7	10	13	16	9	1	69
	Percentage approved	1999-00	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Percentage approved	1998-99	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	100%	98%
	Denominator = All applications affecting known archaeological sites.	1999-00	12	26	4	12	44	37	5	2	142
		1998-99	9	7	7	10	13	16	10	1	73

All applications for development affecting known archaeological sites across the County included conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development. This reflects the fact that developers generally prefer to record a site prior to development rather than redesign an application. Once a site is recorded, less regard has to be paid to the preservation of the archaeology present than if a development has to be designed around it.

Indicator A3: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with agreements for management/enhancement work.

Not triggered in 1997/8 1998/9 or 1999/00.

Indicator A4: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites for which archaeological evaluation is required prior to determination.

	Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites for which archaeological evaluation is required prior to determination	Number approved	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
	Number approved	1998-99	1	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	3
	Percentage approved	1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Percentage approved	1998-99	11%	14%	N/A	N/A	8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	4%
	Denominator = All Applications affecting known Archaeological sites.	1999-00	12	26	4	12	44	37	5	2	142
		1998-99	9	6	7	10	13	16	10	1	73

Indicator A4 monitors applications received which are recognised as potentially impacting on a known archaeological site and which therefore require further site evaluation before an appropriate decision can be made. In an intensively farmed county such as Suffolk, there are a limited number of undisturbed and well preserved archaeological sites which results in a very small number of sites where there is a need for preservation *in situ*.

There was pre-application evaluation at Mettingham Castle, this was arranged as part of Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent prior to planning involvement.

Indicator A5: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites refused.

	Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites refused	Number approved 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
	Number approved 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	1
	Percentage approved 1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	0%
	Percentage approved 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	6%	N/T	N/T	1%
	Denominator = All Applications affecting known Archaeological sites.	1999-00 1998-99	12 9	26 6	4 7	12 10	44 13	37 16	5 10	2 1	142 73

Not triggered in 1999/2000.

Indicator A6: Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (and other archaeological sites of importance) damaged as a result of development.

	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (and other archaeological sites of importance) damaged as a result of development.	Number damaged 1999-00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Number damaged 1998-99	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2

In 1999 – 2000 only 2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) (or other sites of archaeological significance) were affected as a result of development. In both instances small scale works to monuments and was carried out with an archaeological mitigation strategy in place to minimise any damage. The work was approved by the Department of Culture Media and Sport Suffolk County Council and was managed and recorded to ensure that they were not adversely affected as a result of development. The result being that the SAMs were not actually damaged.

Indicator A7: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites of less than national importance approved with no provision for preservation in situ or recording prior to or during development.

	Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites of less than national importance approved with no provision for preservation in situ or recording prior to or during development.	Number approved 1999-00	2	1	0	4	1	1	3	0	13
	Number approved 1998-99	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
	Percentage approved.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Denominator = All applications affecting known archaeological sites of less than national importance.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The number of recommendations by the Archaeological Service which did not result in adequate conditions on planning consents has risen. In two instances “watching brief” conditions were applied when more rigorous mitigation had been recommended, in the remainder no conditions were applied. The St Edmundsbury failure was immediately recognised as an error by the authority and adequate archaeological arrangements were made on an informal basis.

Overall the failures imply both a degree of archaeological decision making by the authorities involved and faulty administration.

Indicator A8: Number and percentage of applications affecting no known archaeological site but judged of high archaeological potential and approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.

	Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications affecting no known archaeological site but judged of high archaeological potential and approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.	Number approved 1999-00	17	16	12	16	28	13	5	1	108
	Number approved 1998-99	11	16	6	18	6	20	4	1	82
	Percentage approved 1999-00	.N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Percentage approved 1998-99	1.5%	2.7%	1.2%	2.0%	0.8%	2.2%	0.7%	0.6%	1.6%
	Denominator = All Applications received in the monitoring period which were not on known archaeological sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		718	585	507	916	753	910	556	169	5114

All districts across the County approved applications, which were on sites, which were not known to be of archaeological value, but were judged to have a high potential of being so. The results here show that, of all non-householder planning applications received, nearly X% were approved with conditions requiring archaeological evaluation or excavation. This figure emphasises that the known sites on the County Sites and Monuments Records are only a small proportion of the real total of archaeological sites.

Town Centres

Within Suffolk's 23 towns, the town centres form the focal point of business, leisure and shopping activities. Although these town centres vary in size and character, it is recognised that it is important to maintain each as providing a vital range of services and facilities required by the community in their area. Each town centre is defined in the respective district's Local Plan.

The government has set objectives concerned with maintaining town centres as the focal points of their communities. Planning Policy Guidance note 6 (PPG6) 'Town Centres and Retail Developments' outlines these objectives and suggests ways in which local authorities can actively pursue and subsequently monitor the 'vitality and viability' of each town centre. The indicators devised for 'Suffolk's Environment' are intended to monitor the vitality and viability of the 23 towns in the County against the guidelines in PPG6 and Development Plan objectives.

Many of the indicators use the 1987 Use Classes Order (see below).

THE 1987 (AS AMENDED) USE CLASSES ORDER

A1	Retail	C1	Hotels and Hostels
A2	Financial and Professional Services	C2	Residential Institutions
A3	Food and Drink	C3	Dwelling Houses
B1	Business	D1	Non-residential Institutions
B2	General Industry	D2	Assembly and Leisure
B8	Storage or Distribution	Sui	Other Uses
		Generis	

Indicator TC1: Number of units of each use class in town centres

Indicator TC1 provides a simple measure of the make-up of town centres in Suffolk in terms of the variety and scale of retail provision, in line with the PPG6 measurements of vitality and viability, 'diversity of uses' and 'retailer representation'. High diversity suggests a vital and viable town centre. This is measured against the Development Plan objective of protecting and improving the attraction, efficiency, vitality and functions of town, neighbourhood and village centres, offering a range of community, shopping and employment opportunities. The table shows the change in the mixture of use classes from the baseline data.

Indicator TC1: Number of units of each use class in town centres (Baseline – District / Borough surveys 1995/96)

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Aldeburgh												
2000	51	10	16	1	-	1	3	-	-	5	1	-
1998	46	9	16	1	0	1	3	0	210	4	1	1
Baseline	50	7	14	1	0	1	3	0	38	4	1	2
Beccles												
2000	104	30	19	4	1	2	-	1	-	8	2	4
1998	98	30	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Baseline	127	31	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Brandon												
2000	36	8	14	6	-	0	2	-	-	6	-	1
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	38	9	7	4	0	-	2	1	-	3	0	3
Bungay												
2000	53	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	54	16	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Baseline	79	17	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bury St Edmunds												
2000	325	50	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1998	332	61	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Baseline	300	60	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debenham												
2000	8	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0
1998	13	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Baseline	15	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eye												
2000	27	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	64	3	0	3
1998	21	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Baseline	28	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Felixstowe												
2000	138	46	21	2	-	-	1	-	-	5	1	-
1998	139	45	20	1	0	0	1	0	5	4	1	4
Baseline	143	42	17	2	0	0	1	0	3	5	1	4
Framlingham												
2000	39	21	8	2	1	-	1	-	-	4	1	-
1998	42	19	7	2	0	0	1	0	49	4	1	2
Baseline	41	19	7	2	1	0	3	0	20	4	1	1
Hadleigh												
2000	65	12	12	14	1	0	2	0	-	6	-	4
1998	67	11	11	12	1	-	2	-	-	7	-	4
Baseline	71	13	13	11	1	-	2	-	44	7	-	4
Halesworth												
2000	60	18	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	57	18	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Baseline	68	21	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Haverhill												
2000	100	30	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	147	7	16	47	28	2	-	-	-	14	4	14
Ipswich												
2000	429	65	74	21	1	0	1	0	3	25	5	6
1998	457	72	71	21	1	0	2	0	2	24	5	5
Baseline	480	68	66	35	2	0	2	0	6	29	5	5
Leiston												
2000	52	16	15	2	-	3	-	1	-	6	1	-
1998	53	17	14	1	0	3	1	1	100	4	1	5
Baseline	54	15	13	2	0	3	0	0	84	4	1	5
Lowestoft												
2000	158	72	20	10	-	-	-	-	-	14	6	1
1998	154	75	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Baseline	170	79	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mildenhall												
2000	15	13	11	4	1	0	4	-	-	9	2	9
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	72	16	11	8	0	-	3	0	-	9	2	3
Needham Market												
2000	38	9	7	1	0	0	1	0	76	-	1	-
1998	37	10	10	0	0	0	1	0	89	0	0	3
Baseline	36	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Newmarket												
2000	143	31	31	25	2	0	2	-	0	15	1	15
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	168	32	26	16	0	-	3	0	-	17	1	11
Saxmundham												
2000	46	18	7	2	5	4	2	1	-	5	-	-

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
1998	46	15	9	1	6	4	2	1	102	4	0	6
Baseline	47	16	6	1	6	4	2	1	98	4	0	6
Southwold												
2000	49	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2
1998	59	13	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Baseline	62	12	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Stowmarket												
2000	84	26	13	2	0	0	0	0	16	7	0	2
1998	84	32	13	2	0	0	0	0	16	5	0	2
Baseline	101	25	13	17	0	0	0	0	13	8	0	2
Sudbury												
2000	164	26	27	14	1	-	2	-	-	8	4	3
1998	150	26	22	9	1	-	2	-	-	8	4	1
Baseline	166	28	21	9	1	-	3	0	63	9	3	1
Woodbridge												
2000	130	32	20	4	0	1	2	1	-	13	1	-
1998	130	31	21	4	0	2	2	1	71	11	2	1
Baseline	130	32	17	3	0	2	2	1	47	14	1	2
2000 Totals	2354	563	404	114	13	11	23	4	853	142	26	80
1999 Totals	2401	593	425	106	14	11	25	3	823	119	19	76
1998 Totals	2464	571	398	131	37	12	25	4	644	120	22	82
Baseline	2593	549	375	159	39	12	26	3	416	132	20	76

Note. Where there is a gap in data supplied by a local authority the previous years figures have been used to give the overall total number of units - so as to allow for consistent data comparisons.

The table above shows the number of units of each land use class in town centres, displaying trends from the baseline date.

The decrease in the number of A1 units reported in the previous period has continued during this year at a similar rate. However, whereas in 1999 this was counteracted by increases in A2 and A3 units, these uses have also experienced overall decreases. Meanwhile the total number of B1 units has actually increased over the past year, whereas the rate of decline in the number of B2 units present has slowed substantially.

Several individual towns experienced fairly significant reductions in A1 units. These included Newmarket, Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich, where the amalgamation of numerous units into one enlarged QD store in the Eastgate Shopping Centre may account for this to some extent. This explanation is similar to that reported in the preceding year, suggesting a continuation of this trend.

Several towns did display an increased presence of A1 units, the most prominent being Stowmarket, where the reduction in A2 units may be offered as a possible explanation.

It is unclear whether the number of C3 units present in the County's town centres has either risen or fallen, with few authorities including this use within their surveys.

Indicator TC3: Number of vacant units of each Land Use Class in Town Centres (Baseline – District / Borough surveys 1995/96)

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Aldeburgh												
2000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
1998	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beccles												
2000	5	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1998	Total vacant = 13 units											
Baseline	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brandon												
2000	9	1	1	0	-	1	0	-	-	0	-	0
1998	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Baseline	6	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bungay												
2000	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	Total vacant = 11 units											
Baseline	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bury St Edmunds												
2000	35	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1998	31	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baseline	58	1	7	76	8	6	1	-	-	-	1	2
Debenham												
2000	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baseline	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eye												

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
2000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baseline	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Felixstowe												
2000	6	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
1998	9	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Framlingham												
2000	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
1998	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hadleigh												
2000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1998	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Baseline	13	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Halesworth												
2000	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1998	Total vacant = 10 units											
Baseline	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haverhill												
2000	6	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1998	No data											
Baseline	17	-	1	18	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ipswich												
2000	43	5	6	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1998	76	12	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Baseline	83	11	5	11	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0
Leiston												
2000	8	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	-	0	0	0
1998	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Lowestoft												
2000	8	6	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
1998	Total vacant = 20 units											
Baseline	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mildenhall												
2000	8	3	0	1	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0
1998	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Baseline	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Needham Market												
2000	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baseline	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newmarket												
2000	7	2	2	1	3	0	0	-	-	0	0	1
1998	10	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Baseline	12	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Saxmundham												
2000	8	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	-	0	0	0
1998	8	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	5	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwold												
2000	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	Total vacant = 3 units											

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis	
Baseline	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Stowmarket													
2000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
1998	No data												
Baseline	17	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sudbury													
2000	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1998	19	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Baseline	18	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Woodbridge													
2000	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	
1998	15	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Baseline	16	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
												Grand Total	
2000 Total	187	47	12	104	19	10	1	0	3	4	2	7	396
1999 Total	208	26	13	105	19	8	1	0	6	2	2	4	394
1998 Total	290	42	14	108	13	9	2	0	4	5	1	6	494
Baseline Total	338	31	19	114	13	8	2	0	5	8	1	7	546

Overall Suffolk has experienced a drop of 28% in the overall number of vacant units within its town centres since the baseline year, with the total figure remaining fairly constant over the past two years. The experiences of individual towns, however, have been fairly mixed.

The data shows that Hadleigh and Stowmarket both experienced significant reductions in the number of vacant A1 units during 2000, while Bury St. Edmunds saw the number of vacant A1 units rise fairly substantially. Most other town centres experienced little change in terms of A1 units during the past year, the vast majority therefore still displaying a decrease in A1 vacancies for the monitoring period as a whole.

It may be useful to look at the results of this indicator in conjunction with those for TC1 in order to suggest possible explanations. Only for A2 uses was the decrease in the number of units in use accompanied by an increase in vacancies. However a similar analysis of A1 uses appears to support the suggestion

that smaller retail units are being merged to form larger outlets in some locations. In Bury St. Edmunds, however, it would appear that the reduction of A1 units present can simply be explained by an increase in vacancies during the past year.

Indicator TC4: Number of Multiple Retailers in town centres

A multiple retailer is defined as: a retailer (including food retailers) with a number of stores around the country.

	Baseline	1998	1999	2000*
Aldeburgh	2	2	2	2
Beccles	11	10	10	9
Brandon	4	3	4	4
Bungay	3	4	3	5
Bury St Edmunds	63	58	49	50
Debenham	1	1	1	1
Eye	3	3	1	1
Felixstowe	21	22	21	26
Framlingham	1	1	1	1
Hadleigh	2	2	2	2
Halesworth	4	2	2	3
Haverhill	12	12	17	16
Ipswich	96	91	84	110
Leiston	1	3	3	2
Lowestoft	50	45	48	53
Mildenhall	5	8	10	10
Needham Market	2	2	2	2
Newmarket	30	31	27	24
Saxmundham	1	3	3	3
Southwold	4	3	4	4
Stowmarket	16	13	20	21
Sudbury	23	27	26	26
Woodbridge	10	12	11	11
Totals	365	358	351	386

*Revised list of Multiple Retailers used for 2000 survey

PPG6 suggests that a measure of town centre vitality and viability is its retailer representation.

The table opposite appears to show that the number of multiple retailers throughout Suffolk's towns has increased substantially during last year, by some 10%. This also represents an overall increase from the baseline figure, whereas this indicator had seen declines in previous years.

Although this would suggest that the County's towns are thriving some caution must be taken in making comparisons over this period. Part of this trend may be explained by the fact that this year a revised list of multiple retailers was employed, in response to previous concerns that this no longer covered the full range of retailers present in the County's towns.

Indicator TC5: Planning approvals and Local Plan allocations for major redevelopment's or major new developments in town centres

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TC5	Planning approvals for any Major redevelopment or Major new development in town centres.	Number approved	1999-2000	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	0
		Number approved	1998-1999	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	2

Indicator TC5 monitors the number of planning applications for major town centre developments which are approved and the number of allocations in Local Plans which facilitate such developments. PPG6 suggests that “diversity of uses” and “retailer representation and intentions to change representations” are valuable measures of town centre vitality and viability. This indicator is monitored against objectives of protecting and improving the built environment, minimising the environmental intrusion of traffic in shopping, residential and conservation areas, maximising the development potential of vacant, under-used and derelict land and buildings in towns and protecting and improving the attraction, efficiency, vitality and functions of town, neighbourhood and village centres, offering a range of community, shopping and employment opportunities

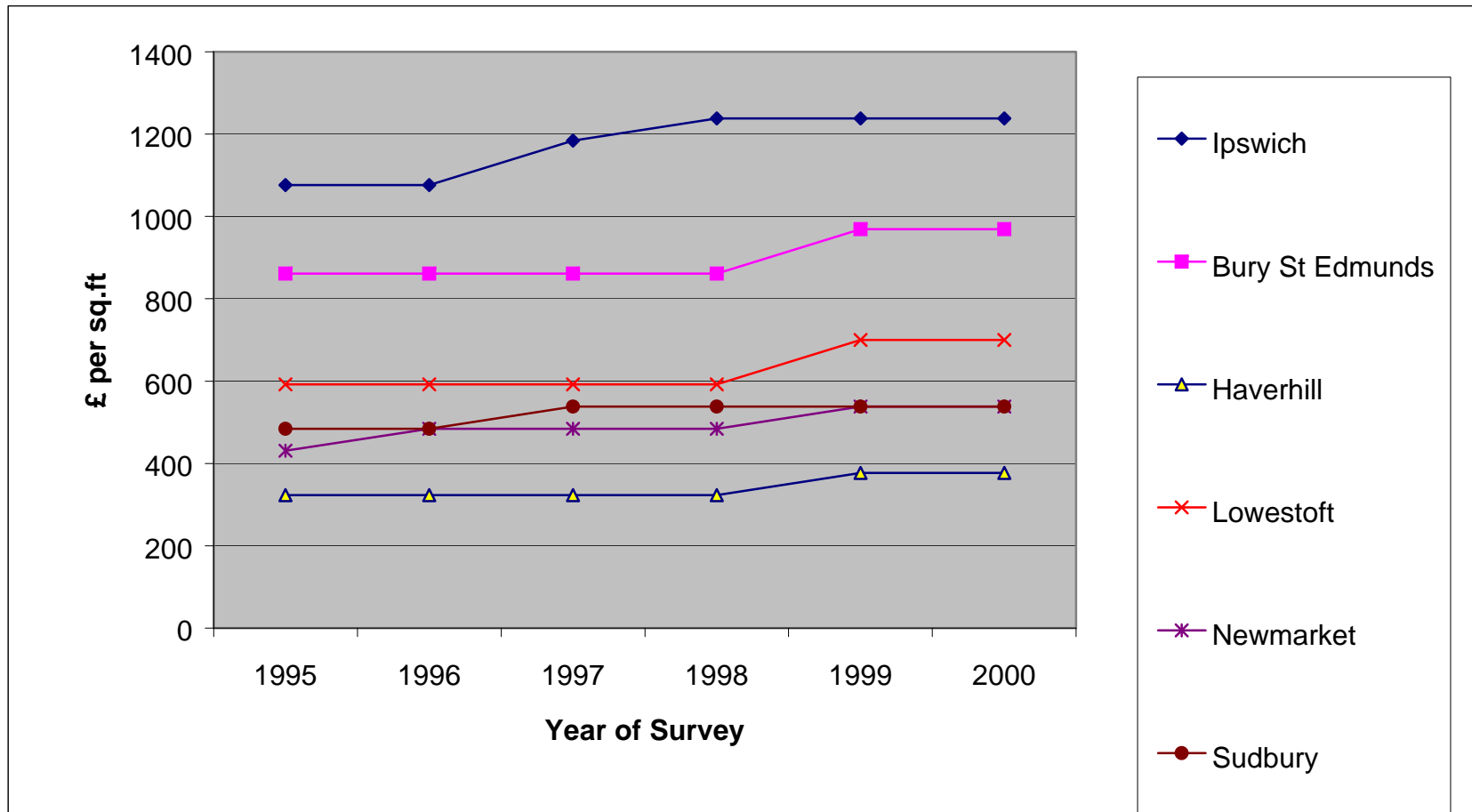
In 1999-2000 ovals were made in two districts. In St Edmundsbury 3 applications for residential development were approved in the Haverhill, whilst at Bury St Edmunds proposals for retail warehousing (2 applications) and a nightclub/disco received approval. In Babergh 2 applications were approved in Sudbury – one for residential and another for commercial development.

The table below shows new Local Plan allocations for major redevelopment or new development in Suffolk's town centres made since the base year. In terms of Local Plan allocations, only Suffolk Coastal has added to those published as base data, due to it being the only authority to undertake a review of its Local Plan since 1996. No new allocations have been made in other districts, although the review process is presently underway in many of these authorities.

Local Plan allocations for major town centre developments - change since 1996			
District	Town Centre	Description of Allocation	Size in Hectares
Suffolk Coastal	<i>Saxmundham</i>	<i>Land north of Church Street Extension of existing supermarket</i>	0.9 ha
	<i>Woodbridge</i>	<i>Turban Centre Extension of supermarket (supersedes previous allocation)</i>	0.78 ha
	<i>Woodbridge</i>	<i>New Street Primary School/Oak Lane Car Park Mixed use including potential conversion of Primary School Building</i>	0.71 ha

Indicator TC6: Rents for each Town Centre

Indicator TC6 measures rental values in selected town centres in Suffolk. PPG6 suggests that 'shopping rents' are a valuable measure of town centre vitality and viability. The amount retailers are prepared to pay for units in town centres gives an indication of the attractiveness of a town centre – retailers will pay more for locations where they believe their turnover will be greater.



Rents (£ per sq.ft. per annum) in Suffolk's Town Centres						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Ipswich	1076	1076	1184	1238	1238	1238
Bury St Edmunds	861	861	861	861	969	969
Haverhill	323	323	323	323	377	377
Lowestoft	592	592	592	592	700	700
Newmarket	431	484	484	484	538	538
Sudbury	484	484	538	538	538	538

(Source: In town retail rents, Colliers Conrad Ritblat Erdman – June 2000)

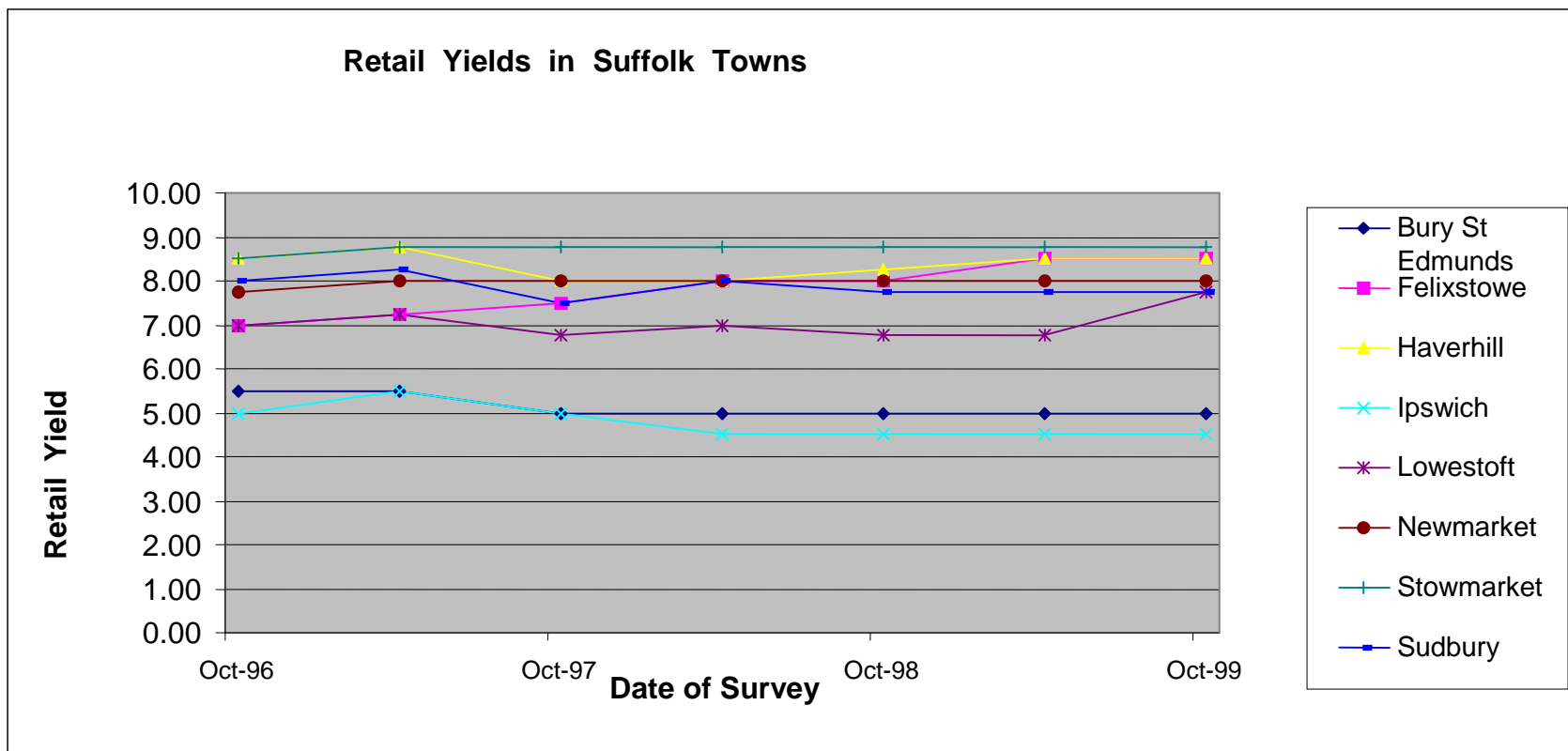
The table shows values expressed as £ per sq.ft. at mid year. They relate to the zone A rent for a hypothetical standard shop unit in the best (100%) pitch within the centre.

This past year saw rental values levelling off, with no changes occurring in any of the towns covered. This follows a period of steady increases for most towns during 1999.

Indicator TC7: Retail Yields (%)

	01/10/96	01/04/97	01/10/97	01/04/98	01/10/98	01/04/99	01/10/99
Bury St Edmunds	5.50	5.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Felixstowe	7.00	7.25	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.50
Haverhill	8.50	8.75	8.00	8.00	8.25	8.50	8.50
Ipswich	5.00	5.50	5.00	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Lowestoft	7.00	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.75	6.75	7.75
Newmarket	7.75	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Stowmarket	8.50	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75
Sudbury	8.00	8.25	7.50	8.00	7.75	7.75	7.75

Source: Property market report - autumn 1999 (Valuation Office, 1999)



Retail yields are a measure of the property value which enables various values of properties of different size, location and other characteristics to be compared. Yield is the ratio of rental income to capital value, and is expressed in terms of the open market rents of a property as a percentage of the capital value.

The lower a yield the more investors are likely to be optimistic about a town. Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich have the lowest yields in Suffolk indicating they are more likely to attract investment. Notably, the yield in Ipswich is the joint second lowest in Britain.

Indicator TC9: Length and Area of Pedestrianisation in town centres

Change in pedestrian priority schemes in Suffolk's towns since 1996					
Town Centre	Pedestrianised Streets (in bold type) <i>(Pedestrian Priority in Italics)</i>	Base Line Data Area in hectares (Total Length (m))	1998 Area in hectares (Total Length (m))	1999 Area in hectares (Total Length (m))	2000 Area in hectares (Total Length (m))
Beccles	Sheepgate, Old Weighbridge Road	0.12 (75m)	0.12 (75m)	0.12 (75m)	0.12 (75m)
Brandon	Market Hill	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Bungay			0.02 (30m)	0.02 (30m)	0.02 (30m)
Bury St Edmunds	The Traverse, Langton Place, Brentgovel Street, Abbeygate Street, Hatter Street, St Johns Street	0.68 (840m)	0.68 (840m)	0.68 (840m)	0.68 (840m)
Felixstowe	<i>Hamilton Road</i>	(220m)	(220m)	(220m)	(220m)
Hadleigh	George Street	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
Halesworth	The Thoroughfare	N/A	0.19 (215m)	0.19 (215m)	0.19 (215m)
Haverhill	<i>Haverhill High Street</i>	0.61 (600m)	0.61 (600m)	0.61 (600m)	0.61 (600m)
Ipswich	Black Horse Walk, Buttermarket, Carr St, Cornhill, Dial Lane, Hatton Court, Lady Lane, Lion St, Lloyds Avenue, Princes St, Providence St, St Lawrence St, St Stephens Lane, Tavern St, Tower St, The Walk, Thoroughfare, Westgate St, St Nicholas St, Cutlers St, Quadling St, The Wet Dock Promenades (New Cut), St. Peters St	1.62 (1664m)	2.31 (2316m)	2.46 (2466m)	2.46 (2466m)

Lowestoft	London Road North	0.54	1.26 (700m)	1.26 (700m)	1.26 (700m)
Mildenhall	Market Place and Precinct	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
Newmarket	Market St, Sun Lane and Wellington St	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
Stowmarket	<i>Ipswich St, Market Place, Crowe St, Bury St</i>	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
Sudbury	Gaol Lane, North Street	0.01	0.01 (255m)	0.01 (255m)	0.01 (255m)
Woodbridge	<i>The Throughfare</i>		(406m)	(406m)	(406m)

Baseline data: District / Borough council surveys 1995/96

The table shows the length and area of pedestrian priority and Pedestrianisation schemes implemented since the baseline data was collected.

As is shown in the above data there were no extensions to pedestrianised areas over the last year, with the pedestrianisation of St. Peters Street in Ipswich the only addition in the twelve months preceding that.

Indicator TC10: Number of town centre car parking spaces

	Short Stay			Long Stay			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Babergh	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Hadleigh	85	78	164	268	192	97	3	3	3
Sudbury	613	592	592	416	416	416	17	17	17

	Privately Owned Spaces			Public Ownership Short Stay			Long Stay			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1999	2000
Forest Heath	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1999	2000
Brandon	0	0	0	0	0	0	257	257	257	8	8	8
Mildenhall	56	56	56	0	0	0	342	342	342	8	8	8
Newmarket	188	188	188	526	526	526	448	448	448	18	18	18

	Short Stay			Long Stay			Short/Long Stay			Disabled			Park and Ride		
	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Ipswich	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Ipswich	2942	3061	3437	1376	748	51	959	621	870	60	-	-	-	550	1100

	Short Stay			Long Stay			Short/Long Stay			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Mid Suffolk	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Debenham	0	0	N/A	57	57	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Eye	0	0	N/A	196	178	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	6	N/A
Needham Market	106	105	N/A	92	122	N/A	6	6	N/A	0	0	N/A
Stowmarket	580	661	N/A	98	92	N/A	0	0	N/A	19	19	N/A

	Off Street (Council owned)			Off Street (Private Owned)			On Street (charged)			Other On Street			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
St Edmundsbury	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Bury St Edmunds	3782	3751	N/A	340	337	N/A	215	212	N/A	800	572	N/A	No data	47	N/A
Haverhill	673	649	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	50	50	N/A	No data	24	N/A

	Free			Charged		
	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Suffolk Coastal						
Aldeburgh	191	-	193	320	-	321
Felixstowe	260	-	342	483	-	488
Framlingham	107	-	250	0	-	0
Leiston	36	-	195	118	-	118
Saxmundham	0	-	26	236	-	236
Woodbridge	0	-	157	447	-	567

	Pay and Display			Non Pay and Display			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000	Baseline	1998	2000
Waveney									
Beccles	376	396	396	80	60	60	8	28	28
Bungay	150	150	150	12	12	12	14	14	14
Halesworth	249	234	234	10	25	25	8	19	19
Lowestoft	1334	1302	1302	139	0	0	43	59	59
Southwold	0	0	0	6	6	6	0	0	0

All data excludes Saturday parking

Baseline data: District / Borough Council surveys 1995/96

The table shows the current level and type of parking provision in the town centres.

There is a problem providing comparable parking data as methods of collection differ greatly amongst the Suffolk authorities. However, it is still apparent that most towns have experienced some change in parking provision over the monitoring period as a whole, although this has been minimal during 2000.

Generally, parking provision has shifted away from long stay towards short stay. This is most evident in Hadleigh, as well as in Ipswich, where this trend has continued further over the past year.

The provision of park and ride facilities serving Ipswich town centre has been increased, with the creation of 550 spaces from November 2000 on a site to the North-West of the Borough, doubling the total number of spaces now available at two separate locations in the Ipswich area.

Indicator TC11: Number of major commercial applications outside the town centres approved

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TC11	Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres approved.	Number approved									
		1999-00	5	1	N/T	N/T	2	1	1	N/T	10
		1998-99	2	N/T	2	N/T	3	1	N/T	N/T	8
		1997-98*	6	N/T	3	N/T	11	10	4	2	36

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TC11 measures the number of major planning applications which are approved outside of Local Plan defined town centres. This relates to the following Development Plan objectives: promoting development and transport patterns which maintain and where possible improve air quality; maximising the development potential of vacant, under-used and derelict land and buildings in towns; protecting and improving the attraction, efficiency, vitality and functions of town, neighbourhood and village centres, offering a range of community, shopping and employment opportunities; and locating major new generators of travel demand where they are highly accessible by means other than private motor vehicles.

The indicator was refined after the first year to concern itself with only those applications that were likely to have any impact on the viability/vitality of town centres. As a result applications monitored have decreased substantially with 10 applications triggering the indicator in the past year.

The 10 applications that triggered this indicator were as follows:

5 applications for commercial development at Chilton (2), Hadleigh, Kersey and Sproughton in Babergh District

1 application for a two office blocks at Newmarket in Forest Heath.

2 applications for commercial development at Bury St Edmunds, in St. Edmundsbury, one for a retail warehouse and the other for a cinema.

A hotel and associated car parking at Martlesham in Suffolk Coastal District.

A Non food retail park with restaurant at Gisleham, just outside Lowestoft in Waveney . This application was for the approval of reserved matters. The original outline application was allowed on appeal. Waveney District Council considered that it would have an impact on Lowestoft town centre, but the Inspector disagreed.

Indicator TC12: Number of major commercial applications outside town centres refused

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TC12	Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres refused.	Number refused									
		1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
		1998-99	N/T	1	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2
		1997-98	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	3	3	N/T	8

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TC12 monitors the number of planning applications for major commercial developments outside of town centres, which are refused against the objectives of maximising development potential in towns and protecting the vitality/viability of existing centres.

No applications triggered this indicator in the current monitoring period.

Quality of the Built Environment

Indicator BE1: Number of design briefs covering major development sites

Authority	Number of design briefs			
	1999 ¹	Implemented 1999-00	Prepared 1999-0	2000 ¹
Babergh	4	0	0	4
Forest Heath	9	0	0	9
Ipswich	8	0	0	8
Mid Suffolk	3	0	0	3
St. Edmundsbury ²	5 (7)	0	1	6 (7)
Suffolk Coastal	6	0	0	6
Waveney	13	0	0	12

¹ Figures represent development briefs not implemented or currently being implemented.

² Figures in brackets refer to additional development frameworks within the local plan.

Between 1999 and 2000, Babergh, Forest Heath, Mid Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal District Councils and Ipswich Borough Council recorded no change in the total number of design briefs covering major development sites. However, in Forest Heath two draft briefs were adopted – relating to land east of Green Road Brandon, and Matthews Nursery, Lakenheath.

Only St. Edmundsbury Borough showed an increase in the number of design briefs produced during this time. The draft revised Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Cattle Market Site, Bury St. Edmunds was produced in April 2000. This SPG relates to a brownfield town centre site which is allocated in the Local Plan for a mix of uses. This draft revised SPG replaces an existing SPG produced in 1983, which had not been recorded in previous surveys.

Whilst Waveney District recorded a decrease in the number of design briefs between 1999 and 2000, this was due to improved data collection methods, rather than the completion of development.

Indicator BE2: Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of density, scale, layout, design, landscaping, or impact on the visual character or appearance of locality.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
BE2	Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of density, scale, layout, design, landscaping, or impact on the visual character or appearance of locality.	Number Refused	1999-00	35	26	51	42	57	55	39	N/T	305
			1998-99	56	19	23	50	50	35	46	2	281
			1997-98	52	9	28	54	47	39	53	N/T	282
		Percentage Refused	1999-00	6%	7%	9%	4%	8%	6%	6%	n/a	6%
			1998-99	9%	3%	4%	5%	7%	4%	8%	1%	6%
			1997-98	7%	4%	5%	6%	6%	4%	9%	n/a	6%
		Denominator	1999-00	632	380	564	989	746	920	619	164	5014
			1998-99	623	592	514	926	766	926	566	170	5083
			1997-98	717	206	621	946	776	1004	565	190	5025

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator BE2 monitors planning applications which are refused on design grounds - density, scale, layout, design, landscaping or impact on the visual character or appearance of locality - against the objective of protecting and improving the built environment.

The number of applications which were refused on grounds involving one or more of the criteria mentioned above has increased slightly over the last year. However the refusal rate is similar to previous years at 6%, with little variation between local authorities.

Of the refusals in 1999/00, over half (155) were of a residential nature and most were planning applications. Of the remainder, a significant number (77) related to other activities, 64 were for commercial activities, 4 recreation, and 5 community facilities.

This was a similar pattern to previous years, with residential applications forming the majority triggering this indicator, with commercial and other also featuring quite prominently.

Indicator BE3: Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of privacy, daylight, odour, or noise nuisance.

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
BE3	Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of privacy, daylight, odour, dust or noise nuisance.	Number Refused	1999-00	15	7	4	26	5	35	19	N/T	111
			1998-99	9	4	9	31	21	10	24	2	110
			1997-98	19	1	5	27	19	22	30	2	125
		Percentage Refused	1999-00	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	4%	3%	N/A	2%
			1998-99	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%	1%	4%	1%	2%
			1997-98	3%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%
		Denominator	1999-00	632	380	564	989	746	920	619	164	5014
			1998-99	623	592	514	926	766	926	566	170	5083
			1997-98	717	206	621	946	776	1004	565	190	5025

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator BE3 monitors planning applications which are refused on amenity grounds - privacy, daylight, odour, dust or noise nuisance - against the objective of protecting and improving the built environment.

In 1999/00, 111 applications were refused on the grounds of amenity criteria, almost exactly the same as last year. The refusal rate over the past 3 years has been a constant 2%, with little variation between the individual local authorities.

Of the refusals in 1999/00 over 60% (68) were of a residential nature, with a further 34 relating to commercial activity. Of remainder, 5 were for recreation and community facilities, and 4 related to other activities. This was a similar pattern to previous years, with residential applications forming the majority triggering this indicator, with commercial also featuring quite prominently.

Indicator BE4: Number of new TPOs served within villages and urban areas.

The table below summarises TPOs in villages and urban areas of Suffolk.

Numbers of TPOs within villages and urban areas of Suffolk				
	1996	1998	1999	2000
No. TPOs	1284	1434	1510	1589
No. Designated woodlands (area in Ha)	63 (91)	73 (91)	79 (N/A)	82 (N/A)
No. Designated areas (area in Ha)	418 (255.5)	424 (264.72)	427 (N/A)	434 (N/A)
No. Trees covered individually	6986	7327	7639	7936
No. Trees within groups (No. Of groups)	10325 (1054)	10803 (1119)	10870 (1244)	11051 (1263)

Across Suffolk, all local authorities recorded an increase in the number of TPOs served within villages and urban areas between 1999 and 2000, as shown by the table below.

Number of new TPOs served within villages and urban areas of each local authority in Suffolk														
	BDC		FHDC		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
No. TPOs	+6	+10	+4	+8	+13	+13	+12	+9	+3	+14	+28	+10	+13	+15
No. Designated woodlands (area in Ha)	0 (0)	+1 (N/A)	0 (0)	0 (0)	+2 (N/A)	0 (0)	+1 (N/A)	+1 (N/A)	0 (0)	0 (0)	+3 (N/A)	+1 (N/A)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No. Designated areas (area in Ha)	0 (0)	0 (0)	+1 (N/A)	+4 (N/A)	0 (0)	0 (0)	+1 (N/A)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (N/A)	+2 (N/A)	+2 (N/A)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No. Trees covered individually	+23	+32	+2	+8	+5	+42	+5	+9	+41	+71	+140	+52	+95	+83
No. Trees within groups (No. Of groups)	+13 (+2)	+64 (+5)	+6 (+1)	0 (0)	+50 (+7)	0 (0)	+28 (+6)	+50 (+6)	+18 (+5)	+11 (+2)	+43 (+13)	+56 (+6)	0 (0)	0 (0)

The total number of new TPOs served during this period was approximately 80, although the number of individual trees protected by these TPOs varies between authorities. Only Babergh, recorded an increase in the number of designated woodlands between 1999 and 2000.

Trees covered individually and trees covered in groups account for the majority of trees protected under new TPOs. The low number and area of newly designated area TPOs reflects the gradual phasing out of this type of protection. The Secretary of State for the Environment has expressed the view that they should only be used in an emergency and as a temporary measure until trees can be properly assessed and classified. Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to re-survey their existing area TPOs with a view to replacing them with individual or group classification where appropriate.

Indicator BE6: Number of TPO trees or areas of woodland within villages and urban areas potentially lost to development each year.

Indicator		Information		BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
BE6	Number of TPO trees or areas of woodland within villages and urban areas potentially lost to development each year.	Number Approved	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	33	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T

This indicator was trialed for the first time this year. In the event only St. Edmundsbury made a return on the indicator. The 33 applications recorded seemed quite a lot. In the event it was found that this figure related to all applications approved on a site with a T.P.O. Only applications where trees will be lost (felled) should be included. The indicator will be formally introduced next year.

Indicator BE7: Number of applications refused for reasons of adverse impact on a TPO.

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
BE7	Number of applications refused for reasons of adverse impact on a TPO.	Number Refused	1999-00	1	..		1	4	6	1	N/T	13

This indicator was new for 1999-00. Thirteen applications were refused for reasons of adverse impact on a T.P.O.

TRANSPORT

The Development Plan and the Provisional Local Transport Plan (LTP) formed the framework for transport and land use planning monitored in this report. The development of more sustainable transport policies has been established with publication of the revised County Structure Plan (currently at the Proposed Modifications stage, with a view to be Adopted this summer). The Plan contains broad objectives seeking to locate development in a way that will support a sustainable transport system.

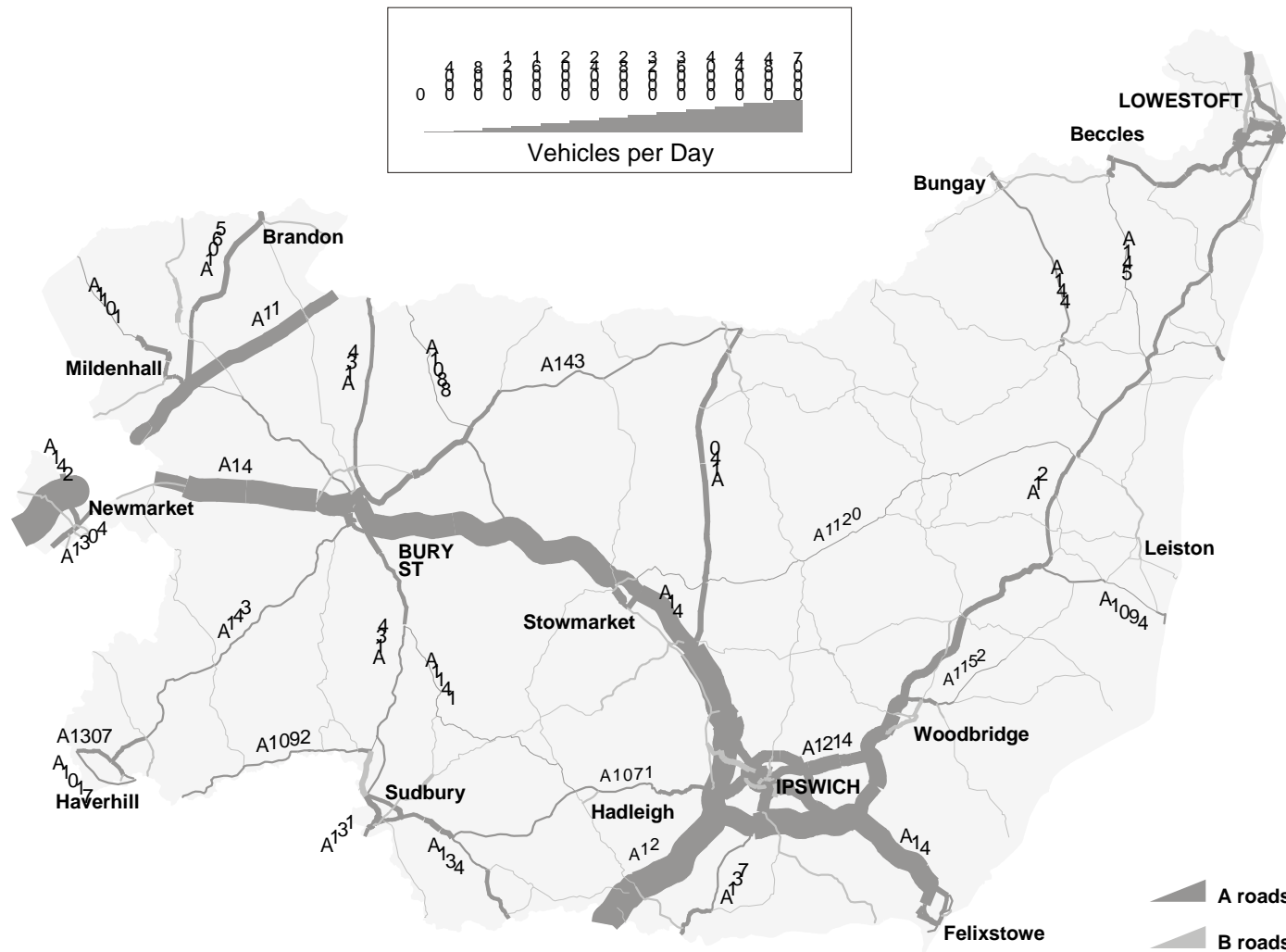
The indicators developed in the Suffolk's Environment Project in 1996 to monitor transport in Suffolk anticipated the change in focus of transport policy to a certain extent. Baseline information for these indicators can be found in the report 'Suffolk's Environment... towards sustainable development' and the Transport Technical Appendix. A few years on, trend information is now available. In Addition, a further 72 performance indicators have been developed to monitor the Local Transport Plan. The baseline for these is published in the LTP Appendix 2000 and the first LTP Annual Progress Report, monitoring all the LTP indicators will be published separately in August 2001.

Indicators not reported this year are:

TP6: The percentage of urban population living within 400m of a local shop and primary school. The reason for the omission of this indicator is that their original calculations utilised the populations of enumeration districts taken from the 1991 Census. These have not been updated and will not be used in the 2001 Census. A new small unit called an 'Output Area' will be available in the 2001 Census and therefore an update of this indicator will have to wait until the Output Areas for Suffolk have been defined.

TP14: Number of parishes where 30 mph speed restrictions have been implemented; **deleted**.

Map 1



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Suffolk County Council
LA 076864

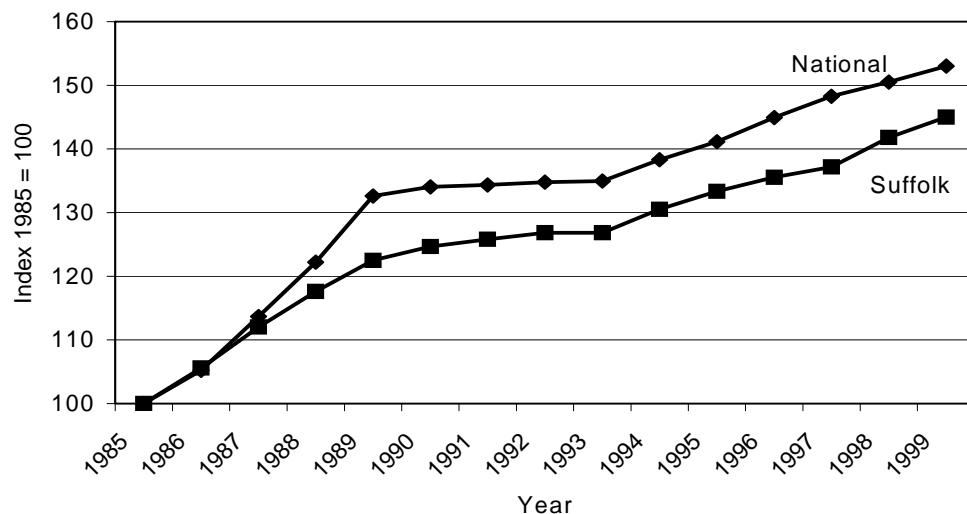
Background

Figure 1 shows how traffic growth in Suffolk has largely followed the pattern of national growth. Estimates based on traffic monitoring sites indicate growth of 45% in road traffic on all County and Trunk roads in Suffolk since 1985, compared to 53% nationally. However, the rate of growth in Suffolk has picked up slightly in the last 2 years so that between 1998 and 1999 traffic grew 2.1% compared to 2% nationally.

The main points are:

- Total funding for the Local Transport Plan has increased to its greatest level since 1995/ 1996.
- As the amount of traffic using Suffolk's roads has increased, so have accidents and air pollution.
- Although the rural population has increased in the county, those with access to five key facilities have decreased.
- Urban cycle routes and parking facilities continue to steadily increase, especially through their provision as an integral component of new residential development.
- Urban traffic management funding has increased massively, in order to improve road safety and provide better facilities to encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.

Figure 1: Traffic Growth All Roads (Suffolk and National)



As can be seen from Figure 1, above, traffic growth throughout the county has been slightly higher than the national figure. The greatest proportion of the county's growth has been on trunk roads (i.e. A14, A12, A11 and A140, see map), indicating that more journeys are being undertaken on the main through-routes than on the minor roads in the county. The amount of traffic on Suffolk's 'A' (excluding trunk) and 'B' roads has also increased, but only slightly (by approximately 2%) over 1998 levels.

The results of 2000 Suffolk travel diaries (undertaken in December 1999 and March/ April 2000), show that more trips were made for shopping and recreation/ leisure than for getting to work. The most frequent trip purpose is to get home. This accounts for over a third of all journeys, and serves to illustrate the level to which people make multi-purpose trips.

The majority of trips to work are made by car, even those under a mile. However, walking to work features highly for the shortest journeys, whilst few people walk or cycle to work if their journey is over 5 miles. The preference here is to use a car, with a small percentage using the bus or train.

Figure 2: Local Transport Plan approved budget for financial year 2000/01

TPP/ LTP Funding (£000's)	Approved Budget						
	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/00	2000/01
Type of Scheme							
Major Schemes	1917	4815	1340	476	0	0	0
Structural Maintenance and Local Safety Schemes	5941	5227	3529	3263	3036	3054	5512
Ipswich package	1130	1450	1300	900	1000	1100	750
Lowestoft package	-	-	0	150	300	450	435
Bury St. Edmunds package	-	-	100	150	300	450	400
Coastal Rural package (a)	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Total Package	1130	1450	1400	1200	1600	2000	1585
Minor Schemes (b)	7276	4155	2347	0	0	1660	725
TOTAL TPP/ LTP Funding	13843	14749	8616	6139	6236	8714	9125
Capital Challenge (c)				1150	707	1010	207
Total Funding	13843	14749	8616	7289	6943	9724	9850

Notes:

- (a) This is now subsumed within other budgets and cannot be separated.
- (b) This has changed to Local Enhancements.
- (c) This is now Rural Bus Challenge project, for which the Council won funding.

A significant proportion of the structural maintenance budget is being spent on the reconstruction of Ballingdon Bridge, Sudbury. Other large schemes include the strengthening and resurfacing of; the A143 between Ixworth and Rickingham; the A1101 between Icklingham and the A11, and repairs to several roundabouts in Ipswich.

In the other main and small/ medium sized towns local projects include extending and completing cycling and pedestrian routes, more management of on-street parking, and measures to improve road safety and to assist in the uptake of public transport.

Figure 3: **Summary of Accident Statistics in Suffolk**

Number of Casualties

Year	Pedestrian			Pedal Cyclist			Car			All other			Total		
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight
1995	7	65	231	3	33	246	19	230	1442	5	110	317	34	438	2236
1996	10	65	195	3	30	239	34	279	1681	11	80	385	58	454	2500
1997	8	62	233	6	36	249	21	234	1696	9	108	351	44	440	2529
1998	5	56	229	2	29	249	10	187	1786	6	94	366	23	366	2630
1999	6	56	218	3	38	242	27	230	1783	12	108	373	48	432	2616
*2000	9	59	228	2	37	215	33	244	1839	12	126	375	56	466	2657

* Provisional Figures

Generally the casualty figures for Suffolk have risen marginally in 2000 when compared with 1999. In 2000, the number of killed & seriously injured casualties reached its highest level for the 6 year period shown whilst the number of slightly injured casualties continues to increase year on year. In 2000, the number of fatally injured casualties reached its highest level since 1996. However, the number of pedal cycle casualties has fallen across all severities.

Air Quality in Suffolk 2000-2001

The East Anglian Region and Suffolk suffer from higher levels of particulates and ozone than the rest of the country. The largest mean concentrations of ozone occur in the rural areas. Thus the levels of ozone measured at the National Network Station at Sibton near Halesworth are often among the highest in the country. Background levels of particulates are higher in the eastern and southern part of the country, due to long range transport from Europe.

Results from all of the national monitoring sites are available on the Internet. At present the following sites provide a considerable amount of detailed information.

<http://www.environment.detr.gov.uk/airq/aqinfo.htm>

<http://www.aeat.co.uk/netcen/airqual/>

Road traffic is the main pollution source in Suffolk. Traffic related pollutants include; nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons including benzene, carbon dioxide and particles.

Two methods for monitoring air quality are commonly used;

- a) by diffusion tube:- a plastic or metal tube containing a filter which is commonly used to monitor levels of NO₂ and benzene, or
- b) real time monitoring which can be downloaded directly into a PC. These produce high resolution measurements of oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter (PM₁₀), benzene and 1,3-butadiene.

The majority of monitoring carried out in this county is by diffusion tube.

Air quality is currently monitored by diffusion tube at approximately 75 locations in Suffolk. The majority of this data is collected by the district/borough councils in support of their duties under the Environment Act 1995 relating to the Air Quality Strategy for England and the Review and Assessment of local air quality. Copies of their Review Reports can be obtained from the District/Borough Authorities. Suffolk County Council has undertaken one real-time monitoring study this year in partnership with Waveney District Council for 4 locations in Lowestoft.

The road traffic pollution "hotspots" in Suffolk are related to the trunk roads; the A14, A12 and A11 which carry relatively high volumes of fast flowing traffic with a significant proportion of heavy goods vehicles. Further hotspots are in the congested town centre areas within the larger Suffolk towns. Data collection is on-going both by monitoring and modelling methods and has focussed on a small number of congested streets in Ipswich, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury, Haverhill and Woodbridge. From the results obtained so far, no town centre areas have been found where the objectives contained in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 are likely to be breached. Final results to establish the pollution levels at other trunk road locations and town centre streets are still awaited.

For the most part, air quality in Suffolk is typical of a "Rural County", with higher pollution levels adjacent to the heavier trafficked trunk roads, and roadside pollution levels in the larger urban areas such as Ipswich and Lowestoft representative of towns of a similar size throughout the country.

TP1: Percentage of housing in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, Other towns and elsewhere.

An important way of minimising necessary car journeys and the associated environmental impacts of these is to encourage people to live closer to their place of work and the facilities that they are likely to use on a regular basis. Towns form the main concentrations of these facilities and are usually the focus of public transport links in any particular area - thereby they offer sustainable transport choices. The urban transport facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are also more likely to encourage journeys by foot or cycle.

Encouraging housing in the main towns therefore has the advantages of potentially reducing private motorised traffic and increasing the use of more sustainable transport modes. Indicators TP1 and TP2 demonstrate the extent to which Suffolk is moving towards sustainable development through providing for people to live in its towns.

TP1: Percentage housing in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, other towns and elsewhere – 1995,1997,1998, 2000												
District	Major towns				Other Towns				Elsewhere			
	1995	1997	1998	2000	1995	1997	1998	2000	1995	1997	1998	2000
Babergh	7	7	8	8	33	33	33	33	60	60	60	59
Forest Heath	0	0	0	0	64	64	64	64	37	37	37	36
Ipswich	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	8	8	8	8	31	31	31	31	61	61	61	61
Suffolk Coastal	17	18	18	19	51	50	50	49	32	32	32	32
St. Edmundsbury	43	43	43	42	20	21	21	22	37	36	36	36
Waveney	59	59	59	59	26	26	26	26	15	15	15	15
SUFFOLK TOTAL	39	39	39	39	30	30	30	30	31	31	31	31

Indicator TP1 is a slow moving indicator due to the scale of development required to affect the percentages. There has been no change across the County in the proportion of housing in major towns (Ipswich, Bury and Lowestoft), Other Towns and Elsewhere since 1995. The only changes have been in Suffolk Coastal where a slight shift towards concentration in Major Towns from Other Towns has been registered and in St. Edmundsbury from Major Towns to Other Towns.

TP2: Percentage of all new residential development taking place in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, Other towns and elsewhere.

Indicator TP2 shows that county-wide the trend away from building new housing in the major towns towards building in Other Towns has continued in 1995 – 2000. This is largely due to a concentration of recent growth in Haverhill (St Edmundsbury Borough). In Babergh and Mid Suffolk a large proportion of growth has been in larger villages. The remaining Districts have shown an increase in new development in the Major Towns present in their areas since 1991-1995.

TP2: Percentage of new residential development taking place in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, other towns and elsewhere 1995-00						
District	Major towns		Other Towns		Elsewhere	
	1991-95	1995-00	1991-95	1995-00	1991-95	1995-00
Babergh	13	20	39	33	48	47
Forest Heath	0	0	79	71	21	29
Ipswich	100	100	0	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	6	14	19	32	75	54
Suffolk Coastal	55	57	23	27	22	17
St. Edmundsbury	55	31	19	54	26	15
Waveney	56	57	37	32	7	11
SUFFOLK TOTAL	42	38	30	38	28	24

TP3: Percentage of rural population living in parishes which have a food shop or general store, post office, pub, primary school, and meeting place.

This indicator provides a measure of the location of facilities such as local shops, post offices, and public houses that, if provided in villages, will reduce the likelihood of the residents of those villages travelling to urban areas to use similar facilities. This is the first time this indicator has been updated by information available from District Councils, since the original Suffolk's Environment report in 1996. Although a five year indicator, the perceived rate of change in facilities in Suffolk meant that an early review was justified.

This indicator is calculated from the population (1999 estimates) of the rural parishes in each District in 2000 that have all five types of facility as a percentage of the rural population.

TP3: Percentage of rural population living in parishes which have a food shop or general store, post office, pub, primary school, and meeting place.						
District	Total Rural Population		Population with access to all five listed facilities		Percentage of population with access to all five listed facilities	
	1994	1999	1994	1999	1994	1999
Babergh	47,385	48,060	35,209	35,240	74%	73%
Forest Heath	16,092	15,270	7,789	6,190	49%	41%
Mid Suffolk	54,181	64,350	28,783	35,050	53%	54%
Suffolk Coastal	34,511	37,710	11,913	10,050	35%	27%
St. Edmundsbury	35,485	36,070	20,289	18,800	57%	52%
Waveney	16,681	17,070	5,753	5,750	34%	34%
Totals	204,335	218,530	109,826	111,080	54%	51%

In Babergh District the rural population has increased slightly from 1994. However, in comparison with the earlier figures the level of services has increased, but not quite kept pace with population changes. For example, Nedging with Naughton has lost its post office, despite experiencing a slight population increase.

The rural population of Forest Heath District has fallen by almost 1,000 since 1994. This is attributable to changing staffing levels at the American airbase. Otherwise, the population has remained fairly constant over the monitoring period. However, the population with access to all five facilities has dropped considerably. This is mainly due to parishes like Moulton and Gazeley losing their shops (Gazeley also lost its post office).

Despite an increase of over 10,000 in Mid Suffolk District's rural population, there has been an increase in the percentage of that population with access to all five facilities. This would indicate that since at least 1994 new development has been distributed around most settlements, rather than just those with the largest populations. The parish of Gislingham now has a post office, a facility that was unavailable there in 1994.

The situation with Suffolk Coastal District and St. Edmundsbury Borough has not been as favourable. The loss of facilities has been severe in St. Edmundsbury, where parishes like Honington and Little Thurlow have lost two facilities (including their shops) since 1994, and the parish of Withersfield lost both its pubs and a post office.

Waveney District has remained fairly constant over the past six years, however Wissett has lost its shop. No other key services have been lost.

The Rural White Paper 'Our Countryside: the future' sets out a requirement on the Post Office to maintain its rural network and to prevent any avoidable closures of rural post offices. It also states that there should be a presumption against the closure of rural primary schools.

£15 million has been earmarked to provide for facilities that have been lost in the past, through a community service fund. There is also a proposal to provide rate relief to facilities that benefit the rural community, like local pubs, garages and village shops. It is anticipated that these measures will help to stem the loss of services in rural areas and therefore in future, Suffolk should see an improvement in the level of facilities provided.

TP4: Percentage of urban population living within 400m of a local shop.

This indicator cannot be completely updated because population figures for Enumeration Districts are not available. However, the overall distribution of shops has been re-examined and it can be seen that overall, the county has seen more gains than losses. The new shops are mostly located in town centres, so it can be concluded that the percentage of the urban population living within 400m of a local shop has not altered significantly from the 1994 data.

There has been negligible change in the provision of shops in urban areas throughout Suffolk Coastal and Babergh Districts. In St. Edmundsbury, only Bury St. Edmunds has seen a noticeable increase in shops, mainly to the north-western side of the town, but also on the newly developed Moreton Hall estate.

In Newmarket (Forest Heath District), the majority of new shops are located in the town centre, along or parallel to Exning Road. A similar feature is noticeable in Brandon, where the new shops have located along the east-west axis of the town, not just in its centre.

Within the district of Mid Suffolk, new shops in Eye form an arc from Church Street to Broad Street in the town centre. These two streets have been the main routes and the centre of activity through the town for over a century. Therefore, it can be seen that historic significance has considerable influence over the prime location of facilities in the county.

Needham Market's new shops are well dispersed along the main High Street, matching the town's linear pattern. In nearby Stowmarket, the majority of the new shops are within the town centre, highlighting its centre as the focal point (which is less obvious in Needham Market). However, there have also been a

number of new shops opened as part of a shopping parade (on Wolsey Road), which is located in a mainly suburban area, to the north-west of the town centre.

It is noticeable that more shops have opened on the western side than on the eastern side of Ipswich.

TP5: Percentage of urban population living within 400m of a primary school

Two primary schools have opened since 1996; one in Fressingfield, Mid Suffolk District (in 1996) and another in Saxmundham, Suffolk Coastal District (in 1998). Both are replacements for primary schools that have been closed in those areas, so there is no change to this indicator from its 1996 level.

In the county as a whole, primary school numbers are forecast to rise by 3.5% over the period 2000-2005. Generally, there is a surplus in provision in the rural areas, so this rise can be accommodated without further development.

However, new school places may be required in Ipswich. These will be met by providing additional accommodation at existing schools, as necessary. Two new schools are scheduled for completion; one at Grange Farm for the new school year (September 2001), Kesgrave and one at Ravenswood, South East Ipswich (September 2002).

New accommodation is likely to be required in the near future in Haverhill and Newmarket. A new site has been allocated within the Red Lodge development to serve this area of Newmarket. The situation in Haverhill is being closely monitored and the need for additional accommodation will be kept under review.

In Stowmarket a new primary school is planned for inclusion within Stowmarket SDA development. The timing of the provision of the school will depend upon the increase in pupil numbers and the availability of places in existing primary schools in the area.

TP6: Percentage of urban population living within 400m of a local shop and a primary school

It is not possible to accurately measure this indicator at present. However, from the information provided in indicators TP4 and 5 it is considered that the figure will not have altered significantly.

TP7: Percentage of population with journey to work public transport

Indicator TP7 measures availability of public transport for journey to work as an alternative to the private motor car in Suffolk.

For the purposes of the indicator, a journey to work public transport service is defined as a bus service leaving a parish to arrive in a major urban centre or main town between 0800 and 0900, leaving the urban area between 1630 and 1800 for the return journey and operating Monday to Friday all year round. Major urban centres for these purposes are Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Colchester, Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Norwich. Main towns are Aldeburgh, Beccles, Brandon, Bungay, Diss, Felixstowe, Framlingham, Hadleigh, Halesworth, Harleston, Haverhill, Leiston, Mildenhall, Newmarket, Saxmundham, Stowmarket, Sudbury, Thetford, and Woodbridge.

The level of service in each of the above parishes is based on the level of service at the centre of the main settlement in the parish.

The percentage of rural population and the percentage of total population are calculated under this indicator. In the table below the areas defined as urban are excluded from population figures in order to calculate the rural figures. In the calculation of this indicator 1998 population figures are used as the most up to date available.

Percentage of rural population with journey to work public transport								
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1999	92.1%	93.4%	Not applicable	83.2%	87.5%	74.0%	78.2%	84.0%
2000	88.1%	90.2%	Not applicable	78.3%	89.8%	76.6%	76.6%	83.7%

The award of £1.202m Rural Bus Service Grant to Suffolk for the 3 years 1998/99 to 2000/01 effectively trebled the funding available for sponsorship of such services. This award led to Suffolk County Council adopting minimum levels of service for rural settlements of different sizes. However, even with the additional resources it was not possible to provide all settlements with a minimum public transport service level (service levels are dependant upon the population of each parish). Changes that have occurred since last year are mainly due to commercial network alterations in levels of service.

The table below shows that the district and county-wide figures for availability of journey to work public transport services are generally higher than the individual rural figures due to the inclusion of urban areas which have 100% coverage of services to a major urban area.

Indicator TP7: Percentage of total population with journey to work public transport								
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1999	94.5%	97.7%	100%	85.9%	95.1%	87.5%	93.8%	92%
2000	94.0%	97.8%	100%	84.0%	95.9%	88.8%	93.3%	92%

TP8: Number of pedestrian friendly road crossings.

Indicator TP8 measures the number and location of five types of road crossings which are considered to be 'pedestrian friendly':

- **Toucan crossings** are so called because "two-can" cross, i.e. pedestrians and cyclists can both use the crossing in segregated lanes after pressing a push-button;
- **Puffin crossings** have a red and a green phase to control car movements. They incorporate infra-red detectors to sense pedestrians still using the crossing, and the car signal remains on red for as long as the pedestrian remains on the crossing;
- **Traffic signals with pedestrian phases** are those found at junctions to control the movement of cars with an additional pedestrian crossing phase to tell a pedestrian whether or not they may cross safely;
- A **pelican crossing** is one that allows a pedestrian to press a button in order that the flow of traffic may be stopped to allow them to cross; and
- A **zebra crossing** incorporates a series of black and white stripes marked across the carriageway, with a Belisha beacon on each side of the crossing, at which the pedestrian has right of way, but without the aid of a traffic signal to force the traffic to stop.

In addition information for two other types of crossing is collected:

- A **light assisted school crossing** is a crossing that utilises a "lollipop" to stop the flow of traffic while school children cross, with the addition of warning lights a distance along the road to warn vehicle users that school children may be crossing. These are not included in the aggregation of crossings for this indicator because they do not function at all times and are not intended for use by anyone other than school children; and
- **Traffic signals without a pedestrian phase** are those found at junctions to control the movement of cars, but without an additional pedestrian crossing phase to tell a pedestrian whether or not they may cross safely. The lack of a pedestrian phase warrants the omission of these signals from the indicator.

The table below shows a considerable fall in the number of pedestrian friendly crossings. This is because the definition of such facilities has changed from 1999. To qualify as a pedestrian friendly crossing each one must now have tactile paving, and either a bleeper or tactile cone.

Pedestrian friendly road crossings in Suffolk								
	Number of crossings							Totals (not including Traffic signal without pedestrian phases or school crossings)
	Toucan Crossings	Puffin crossings	Traffic signals with ped. phases	<i>without ped. phases</i>	Pelican crossings	Zebra crossings	<i>Light assisted school crossings</i>	
1996	5	1	50	22	101	36	25	193
1998	5	1	54	29	83	30	21	173
1999	10	1	57	24	92	47	21	207
2000	12	1	77	9	93	57	24	240

The number of pedestrian friendly crossings has increased by 16% from 1999-2000.

New facilities that have been installed this year include two crossings in Bury St. Edmunds, one in Mildenhall, a crossing on Bramford Road in Ipswich, and a Pelican crossing at Gt. Barton. Three new crossings have been installed servicing new developments; one Toucan crossing at the Bury Road Park and Ride site, one at Tesco's Copdock, (these are both within Ipswich); and finally one at Tesco's in Brandon.

TP8 Number of pedestrian friendly road crossings and % with disabled facilities								
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1996	8	11	92	6	18	17	38	193
1998	11	13	93	7	17	16	16	173
1999	13	15	107	7	26	20	19	207
2000	14	20	114	11	32	26	23	240

TP9: Total length of urban cycle route

This indicator assesses the success of policies intended to encourage the use of cycles as an alternative to motorised transport by examining the length of routes dedicated for cycle use in urban areas. These cycle routes are divided into four categories in the table below. Segregated cycle paths and shared use footpaths are both off-road paths, the difference between the two being that segregated cycle paths are intended for the use of cyclists only, whereas shared use footpaths are intended for both cyclists and pedestrians. On-road cycle lanes are lanes marked on the road as being for the use of cyclists only.

Forms of cycle route other than these three can also be found in Suffolk and these are included within the table. In addition, cyclists in Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds can also use all bus lanes, however these are not included in this indicator. These are summarised as part of Indicator TP11. The figures below do not include Sustrans signed route NCR1 where this serves long distance leisure purposes rather than commuter needs.

Total length of urban cycle routes in Suffolk																
Urban Area/ Town	Length of cycle route in kms															
	Off-road cycle path				On-road cycle lane				Signed cycle routes				Total length of cycle route			
	1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000
Ipswich Policy Area IBC	4.55	5.15	5.5	6.75	0.8	7	9.5	9.5	8.2	21	23	23	13.65	33.15	38	39.25
Ipswich Policy Area SCDC	10.5	10.5	13.86	14.26	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	10.5	10.5	17.86	18.26
Ipswich Policy Area Total	15.05	15.65	19.36	21.01	0.8	7	13.5	13.5	8.2	21	23	23	24.15	43.65	55.86	57.51
BDC	1	1.55	4.44	6.18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.55	4.44	6.18
FHDC	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
MSDC	0	0	3	6.7	0.55	0.55	2.46	5.5	0	0	0	0	0.55	0.55	5.46	12.2
SEBC	3.92	8.59	9.59	14.32	0	1.26	2.26	2.9	0.43	2.1	6.6	5.8	4.35	11.95	18.45	23.02
SCDC	10.62	10.62	13.98	19.11	2.7	2.7	6.7	6.7	0	0	0	0	13.32	13.32	20.68	25.81
WDC	10.25	13.6	14.52	15.5	1.26	1.5	2	2	0.72	1.15	1.15	1.55	12.23	16.25	17.67	19.05
Suffolk Total	34.04	43.21	54.73	72.26	5.31	13.01	22.92	26.6	9.35	24.25	30.75	30.35	48.8	80.5	108.4	129.2

The following table summarises these results against the baseline figures from 1996.

TP9: Total length of urban cycle route									
	Ipswich Policy Area	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1996	24.15	1.0	3.7	13.65	0.55	4.35	13.32	12.23	48.8
1998	43.65	1.55	3.7	33.15	0.55	11.95	13.32	16.25	80.5
1999	55.86	4.44	3.7	38.0	5.46	18.45	20.68	17.67	108.4
2000	57.51	6.18	3.7	39.25	12.2	23.02	25.81	19.05	129.2

Note - Totals exclude Ipswich Policy Area figures, which overlap with Suffolk Coastal and Ipswich Borough.

Across the County there has been an overall increase in the length of urban cycle routes - a rise of almost 21km from 1999. This is mainly due to the opening of off-road cycle paths in Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal Districts.

Only Forest Heath District has not seen an increase in lengths of urban cycle route in 2000. Increases are as follows:

- Babergh District Council has increased its segregated cycle path and shared use footpath since 1999 due to new residential development at Sudbury.
- In Ipswich the increase in the off-road cycle path is due to the section of National Cycle Route 1 that runs through the Borough.
- In Suffolk Coastal District, 1km of off-road unsegregated cycle track has been created at Knodishall, near Leiston; a 4km length of segregated cycle track has been marked along the A1214, leading into Ipswich, and a further 0.25km created at Gorselands.
- In Mid Suffolk 91m of on road cycleway was provided in 1999 at Combs Ford and just under 1km at Fairfield Hill in Stowmarket. These two lengths have now been incorporated into the 1999 figure for the District. This year, off-road cycle paths on new developments have significantly increased Mid Suffolk's figure.
- In Bury St Edmunds the majority of new provision has been a signed route along quiet roads. There has also been a small increase by virtue of the pedestrianisation of a street and a motor vehicle restriction along another road.
- A 4km section of off-road unsegregated cycle path has been created in Sudbury, Babergh District.
- In Waveney 1km of cycle track has been created along Norwich Rd, Halesworth. In Beccles, two separate off-road unsegregated lengths have been created; the majority along Sandy Lane, with some along Meadow Gardens. Also in Beccles, over 1km of traffic calming measures have been constructed that benefit cyclists.

An increase in provision for cyclists in Suffolk shows progress towards Development Plan objectives, providing opportunities for transfer of car journeys to more sustainable modes in urban areas.

TP10: Number of public cycle parking facilities

Indicator TP10 provides further information to assess the progress of the Suffolk local authorities towards providing for more sustainable transport modes. Baseline data from 1996 provided measurements of the number of district council provided cycle parking facilities in selected towns in Suffolk. Monitoring in 2000 shows that in Ipswich the number of cycle spaces increased by almost 40 on 1999 figures, but by far the greatest increase has been in Bury St. Edmunds, where the number of spaces has more than doubled since 1999. There has been an overall increase in the County of 224 spaces (up 38% on 1999).

Number of cycle parking facilities				
Town	Number of cycle parking spaces			
	1996	1998	1999	2000
Ipswich	70	124	112	130
Bury St. Edmunds	40	104	154	317
Haverhill	25	34	34	34
Mildenhall	-		10	13
Newmarket	24	24	24	24
Sudbury	40	40	50	50
Aldeburgh		6	6	18
Hadleigh	7*	35*	39	43
Lowestoft	50*	120	160	184
Suffolk	256	487	589	813

Bury, Ipswich and Lowestoft have all significantly increased their cycle parking facilities, showing good progress in those towns towards sustainability objectives. This is particularly significant in Bury, a main centre of population which has seen a significant increase in cycle routes as monitored under Indicator TP9 - cycle parking spaces are an important complimentary measure if such developments are to encourage greater cycle use as an alternative to car journeys.

A total of 813 spaces for cycle parking across the County does not represent a large total per head of population. Whilst District Councils are mainly responsible for the provision of cycle parking in their respective areas, the figures above underestimate the total number of spaces available as they do not include cycle parking facilities for public use provided by other agencies, such as at shopping centres, railway or bus stations.

Collection of information about County Council provided cycle parking facilities started in 1998. In 2000 15 spaces were added in Leiston and Woodbridge.

Number of County Council provided cycle parking facilities 1998 to 2000			
Town	Number of cycle parking spaces		
	1998	1999	2000
Sudbury	18	18	18
Beccles	11	11	11
Woodbridge	11	11	26
Framlingham	5	5	19
Hadleigh	20	20	20
Eye	0	3	3
Leiston	0	0	15

TP11: Number of bus priority measures in urban areas.

This indicator examines bus priority measures provided in order to encourage bus use as an alternative to car use in urban areas of Suffolk. The types of bus priority measures examined are defined in the Transport Technical Appendix to the '*Suffolk's Environment... towards sustainable development*' report.

Bus priority measures improve access for buses into towns and therefore offer potential for reductions in journeys by private motor vehicles through encouraging car drivers to transfer journeys to public transport, reducing the potential for congestion and its effects on the urban environment in line with Development Plan objectives, national transport policy and sustainability objectives.

The table below provides information on all bus priority measures in Suffolk.

Bus priority measures in urban areas 1996 – 2000																				
Urban Area	Length of bus lanes (km)								Number of bus gates				Length of bus only streets (km)				Number of Traffic Signals giving buses priority			
	With flow				Contra flow				1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000
1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000													
Ipswich Policy Area	1.5	3.5	3.5	3 (a)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0 (b)	4	4	4	4	0.2	0.2	0.51	0.51	20	20	20	19 (c)
Bury St. Edmunds	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lowestoft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk Totals	1.5	3.5	3.6	3.1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.15	5	4	4	5	0.2	0.2	0.51	0.51	20	20	20	20

Amendments have been made to the Ipswich Policy Area figures (a) - (c) as a contra flow bus lane has been removed since 1999, together with a dedicated set of traffic lights.

The only change on Bury St Edmunds 1999 figures has been the provision of a set of traffic lights giving buses priority.

The bus gate in Lowestoft is located in Oulton Broad. It was not counted in 1998 and 1999 because it has not been in use.

TP12: Number of town centre long-term car parking spaces in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St. Edmunds

Indicator TP12 examines the availability of long term car parking spaces. Control of parking is seen as a way of influencing the scale and distribution of private motor vehicle journeys and can contribute to the development of an integrated and sustainable transport strategy. As such provision of spaces for a variety of parking needs in town centres and a reduced emphasis on long-stay parking in conjunction with improvements in public transport are seen as ways of reducing car journeys for the purposes of commuting, whilst still providing for drivers with shopping, business and service needs.

Because of differences in the method of calculation of the parking figures, and differences in the interpretation of town centre boundaries and central parking cores, it is not appropriate to compare the three towns listed with each other when considering this indicator. Instead, the indicator provides a basis for monitoring changes in parking numbers within each town over time.

TP12: Number of town centre publicly available long stay car parking spaces in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds													
Town	District	Total parking spaces				No. of long stay parking spaces				Long stay spaces as percentage of total parking spaces			
		1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000	1996	1998	1999	2000
Ipswich	Ipswich Borough	4842	4430	4777	4358	991	748	180	921	20%	17%	4%	
Lowestoft	Waveney District	3685	3434	3416	3416	1463	1407	1401	1401	40%	41%	41%	41%
Bury St Edmunds	St Edmundsbury Borough	5157	4527	4527	5699	3021	3014	3014	4021	59%	66%	66%	70%
Total		13684	12391	12720	13473	5475	5169	4595	6343	40%	42%	36%	47%

Information for Ipswich is derived from survey of the Central Car Parking Core, the boundary of which has been revised since baseline data was collected in 1996. The current figures for Ipswich show a drop in the number of spaces overall with a slightly increased minority being used for long stay parking. The overall reduction in Ipswich is due to an increase in the amount of charged and non-charged on-street spaces in the town.

Information for Lowestoft is derived from survey of the Central Core as defined in the 1997 Lowestoft Parking Study. Information published in 1996 was derived from an independent study of the Core. There has been no change in Lowestoft in 2000.

In Bury St. Edmunds total town centre long-term spaces have increased by 1,172 since 1999.

Indicator TC10, in the Town Centres chapter of the report, provides further information on car parking numbers in a wider range of towns based on Local Plan definitions of Town Centres.

TP13: Total Funds allocated to implement Urban Traffic Management Schemes.

Indicator TP13 measures the amount of funds devoted to small scale traffic management schemes in urban areas. Traffic management is essential to make the best use of existing road infrastructure whilst controlling the social and environmental impact of traffic. Information from this indicator is assessed against the objectives of minimising the environmental intrusion of motor vehicles in shopping, residential and conservation areas, and enabling the development of a transport strategy that provides for the safe movement of people and goods and which meets social needs.

The schemes covered by this indicator are funded from budgets held by the Integrated Transport Operations Division of Suffolk County Council's Environment and Transport Department, and include the following activities in urban areas:

- Provision of traffic islands, road narrowing, kerb build outs, junction realignments, humps and mini roundabouts, (as parts of schemes to control and regulate traffic).
- Traffic regulation orders, including waiting restrictions, one way systems, prohibition of movements by direction and/ or weight or width of vehicle.
- Traffic signal and pedestrian crossing investigation, design and installation.
- General traffic management reviews of urban areas.
- Traffic signing and white lining, as part of an overall scheme of traffic management.

The table below identifies minor traffic management work (T Mgt) and, for the first time, the additional investment over the period by the provision of traffic signals, pelicans and toucans. The overall picture is one of substantial and growing investment in both the larger and medium/small sized towns, increasing from the 1996/1997 baseline. The investment aims to provide attractive alternative modes of transport to car use by improving facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport, as well as improving road safety.

Other strategic traffic management works, principally in the package areas, address the needs of each town as a whole and are not being monitored under this indicator.

Urban Traffic Management Funding					
Borough/ District		Funds Allocated			
		1996/97	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
WDC	T Mgt	49700	10000	10000	12000
	Signals	0	0	0	0
	Total	49700	10000	10000	12000
SEBC	T Mgt	59000	10000	10000	50000
	Signals	0	230000	0	130000
	Total	59000	240000	10000	180000
IBC	T Mgt	No fixed sum	10000	20000	20000
	Signals	288000	90000	0	200000
	Total	288000	100000	20000	220000
Beccles	T Mgt	6000	4300	7100	14200
	Signals	0	0	0	40000
	Total	6000	4300	7100	54200
Bungay	T Mgt	19500	5200	10100	15000
	Signals	0	0	0	0
	Total	19500	5200	10100	15000
Felixstowe	T Mgt	20700	13100	13500	46400
	Signals	16400	0	31500	23200
	Total	37100	13100	45000	69600
Haverhill	T Mgt	10000	10000	12000	32000
	Signals	0	0	0	0
	Total	10000	10000	12000	32000
Newmarket/ Exning	T Mgt	10000	6900	15200	42100
	Signals	0	17300	200	0
	Total	10000	24200	15400	42100

Urban Traffic Management Funding (continued)				
Borough/ District	Funds Allocated			
	96/97	98/99	99/00	00/01
Stowmarket				
T Mgt	5000	10700	5800	4000
Signals	0	43000	5200	93800
Total	5000	53700	11000	97800
Sudbury/ Gt Cornard				
T Mgt	14800	12000	39400	82000
Signals	0	12000	20300	40000
Total	14800	24000	59700	122000
Woodbridge				
T Mgt	9000	13900	22000	17600
Signals	46100	9300	0	10900
Total	55100	23200	22000	28500
Miscellaneous	11100	3500	600	0
TOTAL EXCL PACKAGE AREA				
T Mgt	106100	79600	125700	253300
Signals	62500	81600	57200	207900
Total	168600	161200	182900	461200
TOTAL INCL PACKAGE AREAS				
T Mgt	214800	109600	165700	335300
Signals	350500	401600	57200	537900
Total	565300	511200	222900	873200

TP15: Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
TP15	Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic.	Number refused	1999-00	4	5	N/T	8	4	4	3	N/T	28
			1998-99	3	1	2	6	4	2	5	N/T	23
			1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	5	3	4	7	2	21

Indicator TP15 measures the number of planning applications refused due to the likely impact of traffic associated with development on the environment, against the objectives of promoting development and transport patterns that do not harm air quality, and which are accessible to and maximise use of alternatives to the private car. More detailed Local Plan policies seek to protect the local environment from adverse impacts of traffic associated with development.

During 1999/ 2000 28 applications across the county were refused due to the environmental impact of traffic. 71% of the refusals were for commercial development and 21% for residential. Reasons for refusal can be 'local' or 'strategic'. Local reasons included increased noise and the effect of increased traffic on unsuitable roads. The three applications that were refused for strategic reasons included traffic generation leading to degradation of the landscape, and loss of hedgerow.

TP15 (a): Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic in a Conservation Area

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP15 (a)	Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic in a Conservation Area.	Number refused.	1999-00	1	3	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	N/T	6
			1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	2
			1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	2	1	N/T

Under the theme of Environment and Health, the Local Transport Plan (LTP) aims to maintain and enhance the built environment with the objective to promote transport measures to minimise the environmental intrusion, protect and enhance the quality of conservation areas and buildings of special architectural interest. In 1999/ 2000 a retail application was refused due to the limited capacity of the local road network and a commercial development was refused because of insufficient parking, turning and manoeuvring space for service vehicles.

TP16: Number of applications refused because of traffic safety implications

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP16	Number of applications refused because of traffic safety implications.	Number refused. 1999-00	3	22	6	16	15	7	19	N/T	88
		1998/99	13	10	5	30	11	8	14	N/T	91
		1997/98	16	1	1	32	17	13	23	1	104

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TP16 measures the number of planning applications refused because of their traffic safety implications against the objective of developing a transport strategy which provides for the safe movement of people and goods whilst meeting social and economic needs.

During 1999/ 2000, 88 applications for development were refused due to their likely impact on safety. 53% of the refusals were for residential development, 33% for commercial, 5% for roads/ infrastructure, 2% for community development and 1% other types. Proposals included changes of use to dwellinghouses, car/ lorry parks, retail outlets and storage uses.

TP17: Number of approvals which include conditions or agreement which seek to minimise traffic impact

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP17	Number of approvals which include conditions or agreements which seek to minimise traffic impact.	Number approved. 1999-00	6	4	N/T	13	..	N/T	12	5	40
		1998/99	11	0	5	19	N/A	2	14	10	61
		1997/98	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/A	1	15	14	32

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TP17 measures the number of planning applications approved with conditions or agreements which seek to minimise traffic impact, against the objectives of promoting development and transport patterns that seek to maintain and where possible improve air quality and protecting and improving the built environment.

During the monitoring period, 40 such approvals were made across 5 authorities. No data was available for St Edmundsbury. Ipswich Borough and Suffolk Coastal did not approve any applications that would trigger this indicator. Of the 40 approvals, nearly 50% were for commercial and 35% for residential development. Mineral applications comprised 13% of the total, with recreation and community development comprising the remainder.

Suffolk County approved three minerals and two waste applications with conditions to minimise traffic impacts. Two of the mineral and one of the waste applications were a variation or update of conditions for existing operations.

TP18: Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres refused on transport grounds

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP18	Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres refused on transport grounds.	Number refused.	1999-00	..	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	1	1	N/T	4
			1998/99	N/T	1	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	3
			1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1	2	N/T	4

The Local Transport Plan aims to integrate land use and transport with the objective to ensure that proposed major traffic generators of traffic are located where they are accessible by means other than private motor vehicles.

This was interpreted for the purposes of data collection from planning applications as the number of major commercial applications outside town centres, assuming town centres to be more accessible, offering greater opportunities of accessibility to a range of means of transport.

Four applications triggered this indicator: a development of 5 two-storey office blocks with associated parking and landscaping; six industrial units (where there was insufficient justification for car parking levels); a retail outlet and a development for the manufacture of chemicals.

TP19: Number of applications approved where a Green Travel Plan is submitted or required by condition or legal agreement

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP19	Number of applications approved where a Green Transport Plan is submitted or required by condition or legal agreement.	Number refused.	1999-00	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	2
			1998/99	2	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	..	N/T	N/T	3

This indicator gives another measure of achievement of the LTP aim and objective cited for TP18. A green travel plan is a commuter plan to reduce car use and encourage other modes of transport such as public transport or cycling.

In 1999/ 2000 two applications triggered this indicator. In Forest Heath District an application for a food processing plant at Brandon was approved with green travel requirements incorporated into a Section 106 agreement. A similar requirement was to be made in relation to an application for a foodstore, petrol filling station and housing in Bungay. Waveney District Council had recommended approval, but the application was referred to the Secretary of State. The recommendation to approve was subsequently quashed by a High Court challenge from objectors and therefore no decision was issued.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

There is growing awareness of the importance of sports facilities and recreation areas of all kinds in urban areas and increasing pressures in the countryside for those purposes. Government policy is to promote recreation and sport in its widest sense to enable participation and encourage provision of a wide range of opportunities which are available for everyone.

Where publicly accessible open space offers opportunities for sport and recreation, activities which contribute significantly towards improving quality of life – a fact recognised in the Revised PPG17 Consultation Paper, 'Sport, Open Space and Recreation', (2001) which states that Sport, open spaces and recreation all contribute to people's quality of life...Planning authorities should plan for the broad range of recreational facilities that different groups within their community are likely to need.'

New Indicators:

A9: Number and percentage of all applications on known and probable archaeological sites as a percentage of all applications on known and probable archaeological sites as a percentage of all applications.

Indicators not reported this year:

OP1: Existing level of publicly accessible open space provision within Suffolk's towns: **deleted**.

OP2: Hectarage of new publicly accessible open space permitted; **deleted**.

OP3: Hectarage of publicly accessible open space lost through redevelopment; **deleted**.

OP4: Number and percentage of applications refused because of loss of publicly accessible open space; **deleted**.

OP5: Number of applications refused because of inadequate publicly accessible open space; **deleted**.

OP6: Accessibility to publicly accessible open space; **deleted**.

REC6: Existing provision of water based recreational facilities.

CR1; The percentage of the population who live within 5 km of an informal countryside recreation site.

CR2; Hectarage of informal countryside recreation sites per 1000 population.

CR3; Number of visitors to countryside recreation sites; deleted.

Key Findings:

With regard to recreation,

- In those Districts where outdoor playing space data is available, there has been an increase in this facility throughout the county.
- The number of leisure centres has increased throughout the county. In Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal, arrangements have been made with schools to enable use by the general public.
- Two applications were refused because of the loss of public recreation facilities - the first time this indicator has been triggered in three years.
- The length of Rights of Way routinely maintained by the County Council has gone up by 18% over last year, a huge increase in comparison to the previous four years.
- The percentage of justified Rights of Way complaints that have been resolved has increased to almost the level experienced in 1995/1996 (which was the percentage highest since monitoring began).

REC1: Existing provision of outdoor playing space (youth and adult use).

	Area (ha)						
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC
1996	120.20	65.47	140.19	100.15	72.67	231.00	99.66
1998	120.20	65.47	137.80	100.20	132.05	261.19	96.00
1999	100.80	65.47	137.80	205.00	132.05	254.73	97.92
2000	100.80	65.47	145.14	data not complete	data not complete	256.56	101.85
Popl'n*	81,930	56,420	116,930	84,380	96,030	115,360	110,840
NPFA Target**	139.28 ha	95.91 ha	198.78 ha	143.45 ha	163.25 ha	196.11 ha	188.42
Current ratio	1.2 ha/'000	1.2 ha/'000	1.25 ha/'000	2.4 ha/'000	1.37 ha/'000	2.2 ha/'000	0.91 ha/'000

* Population figures represent resident population as at 1998

** NPFA target of 1.7ha/ '000 population used as illustration

Indicator REC1 measures the provision of outdoor playing space (youth and adult use), against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs. The NPFA Six Acre Standard identifies 1.6 - 1.8 ha per 1000 population as being the minimum acceptable provision.

Mid Suffolk and St Edmundsbury Borough recorded incomplete data, which has not been produced. There has been no changes reported in Forest Heath and Babergh districts. Within Ipswich Borough, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney there has been an increase in overall provision of playing pitches. In Ipswich, for example, this has been due to an increase in the number of pitches available at Gainsborough Sports Centre. Within Suffolk Coastal, whilst certain facilities have been lost through new development these have been replaced by new facilities. In addition there has been the transition of a private facility in the form of a school playing field in Wickham Market to public use through licensing to the Parish Council. In Waveney there has been a new bowls green approved in Wangford and a cricket pitch in Rumburgh. In order to assess more accurately the actual levels of supply and demand in Waveney the District Council has commissioned consultants to undertake a 'playing pitch assessment' for the District during 2000.

For the first time, the existing provision of playing pitches has been assessed against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) standard of 1.7 hectares per 1000 population. It should be borne in mind that this a proxy target adopted within *Suffolk's Environment* and it may not be a standard adopted within all Suffolk local authorities. Indeed, it is evident that throughout the county there is a significant variation in the achievement of the NPFA target with only two authorities exceeding the target. This, however, should not be interpreted as these Districts having an excess of provision. Suffolk Coastal, for example, is looked to by a significant proportion of Ipswich residents for the provision of playing pitches, with much of the pitches on the Ipswich Eastern Fringes serving Ipswich itself. It is important that the inter-authority role in recreational provision is appreciated.

Indicator REC2: Existing provision of children's playspace.

	BDC		FHDC		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC	
	Ha	site	Ha	site	ha	site	ha	Site	ha	site	ha	site	Ha	site
1996	-	18	3.57	29	4.03	37	21.4	50	-	49	13.86	112	14.551	98
1998	-	18	3.57	32	4.12	41	21.4	50	-	72	74.50	186	14.461	99
1999	-	47	N/A	41	N/A	52	N/A	74	-	72	71.94	175	13.931	103
2000	N/A	47		N/A	4.14	46		N/A		N/A	67.87	169		N/A
Popl'n [*]	81,930		56,420		116,930		84,380		96,030		115,360		110,840	
NPFA Target ^{**}	57.35 ha		49.49 ha		81.85 ha		59.07 ha		67.22 ha		80.75 ha		77.59 ha	
Current ratio	N/A		N/A		0.03 ha/'000		N/A		N/A		0.59 ha/'000		0.12 ha/'000	

^{*} Population figures represent resident population as at 1998

^{**} NPFA target of 0.7ha/ '000 population used as illustration

Indicator REC2 measures the existing provision of children's play space, against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs. The NPFA Six Acre Standard identifies 0.6 - 0.8 ha per 1000 population as being the minimum acceptable provision.

Unfortunately, despite Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Sport and Recreation it is evident from the reporting period that children's play space is not well monitored within a significant proportion of Suffolk local planning authorities. Child's play, however, forms an important component of social activity and has land use implications relevant to local planning authorities. For those authorities where monitoring mechanisms are in place it is possible to begin to assess progress being made towards achieving the NPFA standard, albeit again it should be noted that the NPFA standard may not be adopted by individual Councils. It is apparent for all Suffolk local planning authorities that further progress has to be made in the monitoring of child's play provision, together with developing strategies that should secure adequate provision.

REC3: Existing provision of allotments

	BDC		FHDC		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC	
	ha	no	Ha	no	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no
1996	32.62	21	30.57	14	67.46	19	37.10	-	8.33	15	41.66	23	32.09	53
1998	32.62	21	30.57	14	67.46	19	37.10	-	8.33	15	41.66	23	32.09	53
1999	19.41	62	30.57	14	67.46	19	30.66	-	8.33	15	N/A	46	32.09	53
2000	n/a	n/a	30.57	14	67.46	19	n/a	n/a	6.48	9	n/a	50	31.94	53

Indicator REC3 measures the existing provision of allotments against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

It would appear from the data recorded that there is not a comprehensive assessment of allotments by all Councils throughout the county. This may partly be an indication of the types of ownership that may be involved, as, obviously, not all allotments are local authority owned, nor can they be easily distinguished when not used. However, there is growing pressure for local authorities to provide protection for allotments, irrespective of ownership. It is hoped that a more consistent framework for collating and maintaining information on allotments can be developed for the *Suffolk's Environment* review.

REC 4: Existing provision of facilities for golf.

	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC
1996	5	1	1	3	6	19	6
1998	5	2	1	3	6	22	6
1999	5	2	1	3	6	22	6
2000	6	2	1	N/A	6	22	6

Indicator REC4 measures the existing provision of facilities for golf, against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

The only local authority to indicate a change in golf course provision is Babergh.

REC 5: Indoor recreation facilities

	BDC		FHDC		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1996	2000
Leisure Centres	4	+1	3	-	4	+2	3		2	-	3	+3	3	-
Squash Courts	8	-	9	-	19	-	11		24	-	25	-	8	-3
Swimming Pools	2	+2	2	-	2	-	3		3	-	3	-	2	-
Indoor Bowls	4	-	5	-	6	-	10	-	8	-	15	-	12	-
Dry Ski Slopes	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Greyhound/ Speedway	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	-	0	-
Indoor Tennis	0	-	0	-	3	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Skating Rinks	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Synthetic Athletics	0	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Indoor Gymnastics	1	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-

Indicator REC5 measures the existing provision of indoor recreation facilities, against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

St. Edmundsbury and Forest Heath recorded no change, whilst information was not available from Mid Suffolk District Council. Of particular note is the increase in Leisure Centres in Babergh, Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal. Whilst new leisure centres can account for two of these additional facilities throughout the county, it is pleasing to note the other four facilities, two in Ipswich and two in Suffolk Coastal are through dual use arrangements with schools. Such arrangements are a valuable means of increasing accessibility to such facilities. However, it is not known how frequent such facilities are used by members of the public and, in this respect, it is vital such arrangements are publicised locally. Dual use arrangements are dependent upon the schools' governing body, rather than the Education Authority.

REC7(a): Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new public recreational facilities approved.

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
REC7(a)	Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new recreational facilities approved.	Number approved	1999-00	2	N/T	9	7	10	5	7	N/T	40
			1998-99	2	5	3	3	3	4	10	1	31
			1997-98	3	1	1	2	5	11	3	5	31
		Percentage approved	1999-00	100%	N/A	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%	100%	98%
			1998-99	67%	100%	100%	75%	100%	80%	100%	100%	91%
			1997-98	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	85%	75%	100%	88%
Denominator =all applications for publicly accessible recreation facilities (excluding open space)	1999-00	2	0	9	7	10	6	7	0	41		
	1998-99	3	5	3	4	3	5	10	1	34		
	1997-98	4	1	1	2	5	13	4	5	35		

REC7(b): Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new public recreational facilities refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
REC7(b)	Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new recreational facilities refused.	Number refused	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	1	
			1998-99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	3
			1997-98	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
		Percentage refused	1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17%	N/A	N/A	2%
			1998-99	33%	N/A	N/A	25%	N/A	20%	N/A	N/A	9%
			1997-98	25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15%	25%	N/A	12%
Denominator =all applications for publicly accessible recreation facilities (excluding open space)	1999-00	2	0	9	7	10	6	7	0	41		
	1998-99	3	5	3	4	3	5	10	1	34		
	1997-98	4	1	1	2	5	13	4	5	35		

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

REC7(a) and REC7(b) measure the approvals and refusals for new recreation facilities against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

Of the seven District/Borough Councils all but Forest Heath triggered REC7(a) with the majority of applications for new recreational facilities, totalling some 41 applications, being approved.

Examples of new facilities approved include the change of use of land from agricultural to sports field at Battsford in Mid Suffolk; the change of use of a farm building into a public swimming pool in Redingfield Parish, Mid Suffolk; the provision of three play areas within Waveney District, the provision of a kart circuit at Ellough Airfield, Beccles; the provision of a tennis centre and associated facilities at Ransomes Europark, Ipswich and the development of a 180 berth yacht marina in the Docks area of Ipswich; the development of a new ten pin bowling facility at Haverhill and the approval of show jumping, dressage and gymkhana facilities at Ickworth Park (both being within St Edmundsbury Borough)

The one application which was refused, and recorded under REC7(b), was within Suffolk Coastal District. The application was for the construction of a multi-sports surface and basketball posts together with the erection of perimeter fencing. This application has an interesting history. A similar application in 1998 proposed the construction of a multi-purpose surface along the northern edge of the playing field, adjacent to residential properties. Due to concerns regarding noise nuisance the District Council's Development Control Sub Committee resolved to give the Director of Planning and Leisure authority to determine the application, with approval being granted subject to satisfactory alternative siting of the surface area, and an amended plan was subsequently approved showing a sports surface to be constructed adjacent to the village hall away from residential properties. The revised application (1999) showed two alternative sites again close to the northern boundary of the playing field. The reasoning being the revised application was that the approved siting could cause problems with village hall bookings and that the revised siting of the playing field, to make provision for the court, was now closer to properties itself causing problems with straying footballs. The revised application was, however, refused on the grounds of unacceptable noise nuisance. A more modest application for the construction of a smaller practise area in conjunction with the installation of a single basketball post and floodlight, away from residential properties, to the south of the playing field, was approved in April 2000.

REC8: Number of public recreation facilities lost as a result of planning approvals.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
REC8	Number of public recreation facilities lost as a result of planning approvals.	1998-99	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	2	N/T	3	
		Number of approvals on sites currently occupied by recreation facilities. (NB. Two Stage Indicator).	1999-00	1	N/T	3	N/T	N/T	1	1	N/T	6
			1998-99	N/T	N/T	3	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/T	5
			1997-98	N/T	N/T	2	1	1	..	2	N/T	6

REC8 measures the loss of public recreation facilities as a result of approving planning applications against the objective of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

Across the County, a total of 8 applications in 5 districts were received on sites currently occupied by recreation uses. Of these 6 applications were approved resulting in the loss of a facility. Ipswich recorded three recreation facilities being lost through planning approvals, the highest of all Authorities perhaps indicative of the pressures being experienced within the town limits. These facilities are all outdoor play facilities: the loss of outdoor play pitches at the Sports and Social Club, Landseer Road through the construction of 34 dwellings, the erection of 29 dwellings at the former St Joseph's School, Oak Hill Lane, although its development did secure the provision of a play area to serve the development, and the erection of a sports academy building at the Ipswich Town Football Club, Portman Road, on practice fields (albeit this academy building has since been constructed at ITFC practice grounds in Suffolk Coastal). Within Waveney former allotments were lost through their redevelopment to provide a bowls green at Wangford. At Framlingham (Suffolk Coastal District) the erection of 15 detached single-storey dwellings was approved on the former Primary School playing fields at Vycos Road. Replacement facilities have been provided in closer proximity to the school resulting in no net loss of this facility.

REC9: Number and percentage of applications refused because of loss of public recreation facilities.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
REC9	Number and percentage of applications refused because of loss of public recreation facilities.	Number refused 1999-00	N/T	1	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2
		1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
		Percentage refused 1999-00	N/A	100%	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25%
		Denominator = all 1999-00	1	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	8
		Applications affecting 1998-99	N/T	N/T	3	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/T	5
		existing recreational facilities. 1997-98	N/T	N/T	2	1	1	..	2	N/T	6

For the first time in three years this Indicator has been triggered. It results from 2 applications being refused, in 2 authorities. These applications involved the potential loss of a long established bowls green to the rear of a Public House in Stradbroke to residential development (Mid Suffolk), and the potential loss of a gymnasium to a residential unit in Mildenhall (Forest Heath), albeit the gymnasium use has ceased.

Countryside Recreation

CR4: Number and length of footpaths promoted

CR4: Number and length of footpaths promoted					
	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/2000
Length of network promoted to provide short, middle and long distance opportunities (% of network)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)
Number of local routes promoted	120	123	130	130	130
Milestone Targets (% of network to be promoted)	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%

Indicator CR4 monitors the provision of public rights of way network in Suffolk, against the objective of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for formal and informal recreation. The indicator shows that a substantial length of public footpaths in the countryside continues to be actively promoted for use by Suffolk residents and visitors to the County alike. 1500km of footpath are currently promoted - whilst no increase has been recorded for five successive years, this figure represents a considerable success, given that the Milestone target of 1500km of routes to be promoted by the year 2000 (30% of the total network) was reached well ahead of schedule. Efforts have therefore concentrated on updating and improving walk leaflets, improving signing and surfacing and making routes more suitable for the less able through Countryside Management and Access Projects. This has resulted in a steady increase in the number of local routes being promoted for public use.

CR5: Length of Rights of Way routinely cleared of surface growth

CR5: Length of rights of way routinely cleared of surface growth					
	1995/6	1996/7	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000
Suffolk Total	981km	1000km	1342km	1529km	1860km
Milestone Targets	800km	950km	1100km	1260km	1900km

Indicator CR5 monitors the maintenance of public rights of way network in Suffolk, against the objective of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for formal and informal recreation. It shows the level of upkeep of public rights of way in the countryside enabling their continued usage. The Milestone targets have been exceeded every year since 1995/6 and were almost met this year despite a massive increase in the target figure. The near achievement of the 1900km target has been possible due to increased capital and Countryside Agency funding.

CR6: Percentage of justified complaints relating to ploughing and cropping resolved

CR6: Percentage of justified complaints relating to ploughing and cropping resolved					
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
Number of complaints received					
% Resolved	46%	35%	40%	40%	45%
Milestone Targets (% of complaints to be resolved)	10%	25%	40%	60%	50%

Indicator CR6 measures the number of complaints received regarding ploughing and cropping of Rights of Way that are resolved.

Availability of Rights of Way is a major concern to the public. Illegal ploughing and cropping of routes by landowners rendering them unwalkable often results in complaints to local authorities. Landowners are becoming more aware of their responsibilities, through such measures as awareness campaigns and the work of a dedicated Rights of Way Enforcement Officer, based at the County Council. Whilst the target has been amended to provide a more realistic and achievable goal, a greater percentage of complaints have been resolved than in the previous three years.

OTHER RESOURCES

Other indicators cover 25 indicators concerning water quality, coastal protection, minerals, the management of waste and renewable energy.

Indicators not reported this year:

WT1: Length of freshwater river courses classified by chemical quality; **5 year indicator.**

WT2: Length of freshwater river courses classified by biological quality; 5 year indicator.

WT3: Length of estuarine waters classified by quality; **5 year indicator.**

WT4: Number of beaches monitored which meet EEC guideline standard; **deleted.**

WT5: Number of beaches monitored which meet EEC mandatory standard but which do not meet EEC guideline standard; **deleted.**

M2: The available landbank of raw material for the cement industry; **5 year indicator.**

Water Quality

Indicators WT6 and WT7 are monitored annually and measure instances of where adverse impact on water quality or flood risk has been cited as a reason for refusal. In 1999/2000 4 applications were refused – one for reasons of water quality and two on flood risk grounds.

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
WT6	Number of applications refused on water quality grounds	Number	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	1
		Refused	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	N/T	2

Indicator WT6 measures the number of applications that have been refused due to potential adverse impacts on water quality.

In the period 1999-2000, one refusal was made that included water quality reasons. In St. Edmundsbury Borough, an application for a single dwelling at Great Barton was refused on the basis of pollution from proposed septic tank.

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
WT7	Number of applications refused on flood risk grounds	Number	1999-00	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	3
		Refused	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	3

Indicator WT7 measures the number of applications that have been refused due to potential adverse impacts on flood risk.

In the period 1999 – 2000, 3 refusals were made across authorities in Suffolk that included flood risk reasons. Two of these applications were in the District of Mid Suffolk. An application for 6 dwellings at Rattlesden was refused due to its situation within the floodplain of the River Ratt, whilst an application at Somersham was refused for similar reasons.

In St. Edmundsbury an application for a single dwelling at Bury St.Edmunds was refused, as the proposed development was within the River Linnet's flood plain.

Coastal Protection

The Suffolk coast is an important natural resource, both ecologically and economically and it is constantly changing. However, the planning system only has a limited role to play in coastal protection. Only one indicator is defined in "*Suffolk's Environment*" and this monitors the number of planning applications refused because of location being prone to coastal erosion. In the first three years of monitoring (1997/2000) no planning applications were refused on these grounds.

Indicator CD1: Number of applications refused because of location being prone to coastal erosion.

Not triggered in first three years of monitoring.

Minerals

Suffolk has no indigenous supplies of hard rock. Most of the mineral extraction done in Suffolk is for sand and gravel for use as aggregate. Smaller quantities of Chalk and Clay are also extracted. One site extracts peat for use as a soil improver. Government guidance on minerals emphasises the importance of conserving minerals and encourages sensitive working practices during extraction. The indicators in "Suffolk's Environment" examine the volume of primary and secondary aggregate available and produced.

Indicator M1: The available landbank of sand and gravel.

Indicator M1: The available landbank of sand and gravel		
Year	Pre-Plan Methodology (Av of previous 3 years)	Methodology based on regional apportionment in adopted MLP
1996 (Jan.)	9.4 years	N/A
1997 (Jan.)	9.8 years	N/A
1998 (Jan.)	9.7 years	6.7 years
1999 (Jan.)	9.3 years	5.9 years
2000 (Jan.)	11.4 years	6.9 years

Minerals Planning Guidance Note Number 6, "Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England", requires Minerals Planning Authorities to maintain a landbank (a stock of planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals) for sand and gravel for an appropriate local area, sufficient for at least seven years extraction, unless exceptional circumstances prevail. Advice given in the MPG has led to landbanks being calculated by comparing permitted reserves against sales over the previous three years. However, the MPG advises that where a Minerals Local Plan exists which reflects an agreed sub-regional apportionment of regional figures given in the MPG, the Local Plan figure should be used as the base from which to calculate the landbank.

The Suffolk Minerals Local Plan was adopted in May 1999. This is based on a sub-regional apportionment of the MPG figures prepared by the East Anglia Aggregates Working Party and agreed by Suffolk County Council. It predicts demand for sand and gravel of 36.45 million tonnes over the fifteen years 1992 to 2006. This gives an annual requirement for 2.43 million tonnes of sand and gravel.

Sales of sand and gravel over the past three years (97-99) have averaged 1.46 million tonnes, considerably below the 2.43 million tonnes projected in the Local Plan. This results in the landbank being considerably shorter when calculated by the new methodology. For information, figures given above are calculated using both methodologies.

The landbank available at the start of 2000 was greater than at the same time the previous year. The main explanation for this was that planning permission was released in March 1999 for the extraction of 3.85 million tonnes at Flixton Quarry, in accordance with the Suffolk Minerals Local Plan (SMLP). Another

site allocated in the SMLP at Redhouse Farm, Bucklesham was granted planning consent in summer 2000 and this is likely to increase the landbank further next year.

Indicator M3: The available landbank of chalk for non-cement manufacturing purposes.

There is no Central Government guidance on an appropriate landbank for chalk for non-cement manufacturing. However, existing Structure Plan policy seeks to maintain a landbank of permitted reserves of chalk sufficient for at least 10 years extraction for such purposes. Information on landbanks contained within Suffolk's Environment showed that in 1995 a 25 year landbank existed.

M3 is a relatively slow moving indicator and is due to be updated in 2001. The reserves of chalk associated with Masons Works are not likely to be used for non-cement purposes. Negotiations are underway for the restoration of the quarry. The closure of Masons Works will therefore have no impact on indicator M3.

Indicator M4: Production of Secondary Aggregates within Suffolk.

The use of secondary aggregates is an important element in the sustainable use of mineral resources, as this reduces the demand for extraction of sand and gravel as a primary source. The East Anglia Aggregates Working Party estimates, based on MPG6 assumptions for East Anglia, provision of secondary aggregates from Suffolk will be 5 million tonnes between 1992 and 2006. Secondary aggregates consist of soft rock such as chalk, clay and shale used for aggregate purposes, and recycled aggregates such as blast furnace slag, pulverised fuel ash and crushed concrete. Currently the vast majority of secondary aggregates produced in Suffolk are recycled (crushed concrete).

Assessment of the contribution of secondary aggregates is imprecise and the Government recognises the need to improve monitoring on a national basis. However, indicator M4 provides some measure of the level of production. It measures secondary aggregate production notified to Suffolk County Council through its survey of known and permitted activities, and may well be an under-estimation of the contribution made by secondary materials.

Indicator M4: Production of secondary aggregates within Suffolk	
Production in 1994	163,000 tonnes
Production in 1995	86,599 tonnes
Production in 1996	101,938 tonnes
Production in 1997	157,000 tonnes
Production in 1998	150,000 tonnes
Production in 1999	320,000 tonnes

In 1999 320,000 tonnes of secondary aggregates were recorded as being sold, almost twice the previous recorded high of 1994. This sharp rise is attributable to the inclusion of additional producers in the survey and increased recycling by established operators.

A planning permission was granted during 1999 for the continued use of an enlarged site at Ingham (Bodney Farm) for recycling of inert demolition waste for a further 15 years. Two further planning permissions were issued in early 2000 for recycled aggregate facilities that may increase production in future.

Indicator M5: Number and percentage of applications for the production of secondary aggregates approved.

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
M5	Number and percentage of applications for production of alternative aggregates approved.	Number approved	1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2
			1998-99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1
			1997-98	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/T
	Percentage approved	1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
		1998-99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
		1997-98	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/T	N/T

In 1999-00 two application were approved. One was for processing of construction & demolition waste, the other being for storage & crushing of former building materials.

Indicator M6: Number and percentage of applications referred to the Minerals Planning Authority for consultation which are refused.

Not triggered in 1997/98. This indicator was not possible to effectively monitor and after discussion it was reworded to:

Number of applications refused because of sterilisation of mineral resources.

According to information obtained directly from the County Council Minerals and Waste Planning Manager, this indicator has not been triggered in 1999-2000.

Indicator M7: Hectareage of land restored after mineral extraction (subdivided by afteruse)

M7: Hectareage of land restored after mineral extraction (subdivided by afteruse)				
	1994-1996	1997	1998	1999 - Mar 2000
Agriculture	28.6	3.6	5.8	7.3
Forestry	0	0	0	0
Amenity	23.7	5.8	18.3	57.0
Other	62.0	8	4.7	0
Total	114.3	17.4	28.8	64.3

NB: Figures do not include minerals sites used as waste disposal sites and subsequently restored.

The above figures have been revised following further work that has been done throughout the year for national survey of restoration of minerals sites. This has resulted in some relatively minor changes to the historic data published last year and the latest set of figures covering a period slightly longer than a year.

The new data shows that 64ha of mineral working were restored between the start of 1999 and the end of March 2000. The majority of land restored was restored for amenity purposes with relatively little being used for agriculture and other purposes. The largest single site restored was 35ha at Homersfield/Fixton Quarry.

The Management of Waste

The principles of sustainable waste management are recognised hierarchically as reduce, re-use, recover and dispose. Planning policies have little direct influence on the encouragement of individuals to reduce the amount of waste they produce, or to encourage individuals to re-use products before they dispose of them. The amount of household waste produced in Suffolk was set out in "*Suffolk's Environment*" as background information. It is updated here for information.

Household Waste Produced (tonnes):					
	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/99	1999/2000
Babergh	36769	38324	41471	43127	44753
Forest Heath	23400	24002	26774	28717	31437
Ipswich	53448	53685	58209	61800	64947
Mid Suffolk	30961	31493	33998	35823	38141
St Edmundsbury	42192	43599	48769	50645	54743
Suffolk Coastal	43196	44702	49827	52546	56757
Waveney	50294	51048	58171	60171	64705
SUFFOLK	280260	286851	317218	332830	355483

The above table shows that the amount of household waste produced in Suffolk has continued to increase. The rate of increase experienced over the year 1999/2000 (6.8%) was greater than the rate of increase in the previous year 1998/99 (4.9%). However, this is still below the rate of increase experienced over 1997/98 (10.6%).

Although planning policies can have little impact on the quantity of waste produced they can encourage the recovery of waste primarily by means of recycling, composting and energy recovery. The planning system can also influence the number of recycling centres. The number of licensed waste disposal sites in Suffolk was published as baseline information in the original "*Suffolk's Environment*" report - this will be updated on a five yearly basis.

Indicators WD1 and WD2 examine the role of planning authorities in enabling the provision of such facilities for recycling and the disposal of waste (including scrap yards, waste incinerators, landfill and landraising sites, waste storage facilities, sewage treatment plants, dredging tips, recycling and waste reception centres, waste processing and composting plants and concrete crushing facilities).

Indicator WD1: Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal facilities approved and refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
WD1	Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal facilities approved and refused.	Number approved	1999-00	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	9	10	
			1998-99	N/T	2	1	N/T	N/T	5	N/T	12	20
			1997-98	2	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	5	N/T	20	27
		Number refused	1999-00	0	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	0	0
			1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	2
			1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	3	3
		Percentage approved	1999-00	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
			1998-99	N/A	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	86%	91%
			1997-98	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	87%	90%
		Denominator = all Applications for waste Disposal facilities	1999-00	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9	10	
			1998-99	N/A	2	1	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	14	22
			1997-98	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	23	30

Indicator WD2: Number and percentage of applications for recycling facilities approved and refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk		
WD2	Number and percentage of applications for recycling facilities approved and refused.	Number approved	1999-00	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	8	9	
			1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	8	8	
			1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	4	4	
		Number refused	1999-00	0	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1
			1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
			1997-98	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1
		Percentage approved	1999-00	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	89%	90%
			1998-99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
			1997-98	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	80%
		Denominator = all Applications for recycling facilities	1999-00	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9	10		
			1998-99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	8		
			1997-98	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	5		

These indicators measure the number of applications approved for waste disposal or recycling facilities. Suffolk County Council, the Waste Disposal Authority, approved the majority of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities. The County Council is responsible for determining planning applications for the disposal of refuse or waste material and the use of land or new buildings for the transfer, sorting or recycling of waste. District Councils are responsible for determining proposals for the change of use of existing buildings for such purposes.

The 19 applications approved overall were mainly of a minor nature and included several renewals/variation of conditions/replacement facilities. One new landfill site was approved at Eye with five others around the County receiving permission for variation of conditions in relation to landfill operations. One application for a variation of conditions at a recycling site in Leiston was refused.

The results of these indicators continue to show that the majority of applications for waste recycling/disposal facilities are being approved, providing increased opportunities for best practice in waste management in line with Development Plan objectives.

Recycling

The percentage of household waste recycled was included in the "Suffolk's Environment" report as background information and this can now be updated.

Percentage of Household Waste Recycled:					
	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/99	1999/2000
Babergh	8.22	9.37	9.98	11.97	11.47
Forest Heath	10.62	13.92	20.89	25.92	28.95
Ipswich	4.81	7.55	8.21	10.34	11.62
Mid Suffolk	9.86	11.65	13.44	15.60	15.29
St Edmundsbury	12.27	20.00	25.56	25.60	25.59
Suffolk Coastal	9.20	16.09	16.68	17.18	18.91
Waveney	6.25	8.36	8.91	8.36	9.81
SUFFOLK	8.36	12.14	14.20	15.51	16.51

There has been an absolute and percentage increase in household waste recycled in Suffolk over the past year.

It should be noted that there is a lack of certainty surrounding the figures for Waveney District. During 1999 the District changed the way in which much of its waste was managed. It is now subject to mechanical separation of the biodegradable element with the intent of producing a low grade soil improver. However, it has not yet been established whether the output of this process is of sufficient quality to be considered a soil improver (and so the process would be considered to be recycling) or it remains a waste. The impact of this process has therefore been excluded from the 1999/2000 figures. If this process were considered to be recycling then the %age recycling rate for Waveney District would increase to over 25% and have the potential to reach significantly higher rates than this in future years.

Waste Strategy 2000, the national waste strategy for England and Wales was published in May 2000. This set the following national targets with regard to the recycling or composting of household waste: 25% by 2005, 30% by 2010, and 33% by 2015; and the recovery of value from municipal waste: 40% by 2005, 45% by 2010, and 67% by 2015. It also set a target to reduce the amount of industrial and commercial waste sent to landfill by 2005 to be 85% of that landfilled in 1998.

The only targets set at the local level were for waste disposal authority recycling and composting but these have already been effectively superseded by the publication of best value performance indicators for both the Waste Collection Authorities (District Councils) and the Disposal Authority (County Council). County wide these targets are for levels of recycling and composting of municipal waste of 28% by 2003/04 and 38% by 2005/06. However, some issues relating to the definition of these figures are still outstanding. It may be that the way in which recycling information is monitored in future years will need to be amended for consistency with the best value indicators.

Indicator WD3: Hectarage of waste disposal sites restored

WD3: Hectarage of waste disposal sites restored				
	1994-1996	1997	1998	1999 - Mar 2000
After-use	15.3	26.3	8.6	18.8
Agriculture	0.7	0.5	1.1	0
Forestry	3.7	0.5	0.5	4.6
Amenity	1.6	0.5	3.4	0
Other	26.2	29.8	12.0	23.4
Total				

The way in which WD3 is being monitored has been altered in a similar way to indicator M7. The two largest sites restored in the latest period monitored are 6.5ha at Lawn Farm, Wetherden and 5ha at Masons Quarry, Great Blakenham.

Renewable Energy

Since the commencement of baseline data collection and the publication of "Suffolk's Environment", there have been a number of developments concerning the use of renewable energy in Suffolk. Progress has been made on bringing forward generating schemes and the Eastern Region Renewable Energy Planning Study (ERREPS) was published in July 1997.

The Government has historically supported the development of renewable energy through the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO). Under this procedure contracts were awarded to renewable energy generators guaranteeing that their electricity will be purchased by the regional electricity company at a premium price for a set period. This process was undertaken without regard to the planning merits of proposals and planning permission is still needed for development despite a NFFO contract. Five tranches of NFFO contracts have so far been awarded. The last being in October 1998.

The Government is proposing to replace the NFFO procedure with a Renewables Obligation. This is the subject of consultation but it is expected that it will be an obligation on all licensed electricity suppliers in England and Wales to supply a specified proportion of their electricity supplies from renewable sources. It is anticipated the obligation will start in October 2001. In addition a system of capital grant support is proposed to support technologies that are still developing, such as off shore wind and energy crops. It is the Government's target for 10% of electricity supplied to come from renewable sources in 2010.

All renewable energy schemes brought forward in Suffolk have been brought forward under NFFO procedures although it is worth noting that the contract awarded under NFFO 2 has now expired. The table below details all schemes in Suffolk with a NFFO contract.

Table - Renewable Energy Schemes in Suffolk with NFFO contracts (Dec 2000).					
NFFO Tranche	Location	Technology Type	Capacity (MW DNC)	Planning Permission	Onstream
2	Eye	Poultry Litter	12.7	Yes	Yes (June 1992)
3	Eye	Wood (SRC)	5.5	No Application	No
3	Foxhall	Landfill Gas	1.175	Yes	Yes (June 1996)
3	Bramford	Landfill Gas	0.81	Yes	Yes (March 1997)
4	Lackford	Landfill Gas	1.17	Yes	Yes
4	Wangford	Landfill Gas	0.87	Yes	Yes
4	Gt. Blakenham	Landfill Gas	2.22	Yes	Yes
4	Eye	Anaerobic Digestion	1.05	No Application	No
5	Wetherden	Landfill Gas	0.6	Yes	Yes
5	Rumburgh (near Halesworth)	Wind	0.632	No Application	No

DNC = Declared Net Capacity - a measure used for generation capacity which operates intermittently, such as wind. The equivalent capacity of a base-load plant that would produce the same average annual energy output. The relationship between DNC and maximum output of a generating facility varies with

technology type. Wind and solar power schemes for example will have a far higher maximum output than will landfill gas schemes with the same output DNC. This reflects the periods over which no generation is taking place from wind or solar schemes (when it is dark or there is no wind) whilst in landfill gas schemes output is more constant.

The ERREPS was published in July 1997 by the Energy Technology Support Unit (for the Department of Trade and Industry). This is a detailed study of the potential for developing renewable energy technologies in the Eastern Region. The study concludes that there is minimal potential for wind or hydro power in Suffolk. This is due to the low lying and sheltered nature of the County, the environmental quality of the coastal area and assumptions made about the economics of these relatively well established renewable technologies. The study does stress that for both technologies (wind and hydro), small scale schemes may be viable where favourable conditions exist.

The study does identify significant theoretical potential for the development of solar power and waste/biomass resources. Solar energy is generally harnessed at the individual building level as an energy efficiency measure rather than a means of power generation. The total theoretical renewable energy resource (excluding solar power) estimated for Suffolk is 1,716 Giga watt hours per year which is equivalent to 230.6 MW (DNC).

Five indicators were defined in the *"Suffolk's Environment"* report to monitor renewable energy schemes.

RE1: Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy

Installed generating capacity using renewable energy in Suffolk in December 2000 was 19.5 MW (DNC). An increase of 2.6 MW from the position reported in the second monitoring report.

RE2: Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy as a proportion of the County renewable energy potential.

Expressed as a proportion of the 230.6 MW (DNC), installed generating capacity is 8.5% of capacity. 1.2% up on the previous year.

The highly theoretical nature of this potential resource figure should be noted. It is acknowledged in ERREPS that the potential resource identified should not be seen as a target as there are many reasons why it will not be achieved in practice. It should also be noted that some of the theoretical resource of Suffolk will be used at generating plants outside of Suffolk. A large (38.5MW) biomass wood burning plant came onstream in 1998 near Thetford just north of the County boundary and this will use some of Suffolk's wood resource. Similarly a 31MW straw burning plant near Ely in Cambridgeshire has recently been commissioned, this may use some of the straw resource of western Suffolk. Conversely plants in Suffolk can use resources originating from outside the County.

RE3: Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy as a proportion of capacity of schemes awarded a NFFO contract.

In Dec 2000 RE3 was 73% (total capacity of schemes with NFFO contracts 26.7MW). This has increased from 63% in December 1999. This indicator will need to be reconsidered in future owing to the changes to the NFFO system.

RE4: Number and potential electricity generating capacity of renewable schemes with planning permission and installed.

Of the seven schemes that have planning permission all have now been implemented.

Two landfill gas schemes (at Wangford and Lackford) totalling 2.04MW (DNC) granted planning permission in 1998/99 came on stream during 2000. A further landfill gas scheme at Wetherden of 0.6MW was granted planning permission in April 2000 and has recently come on stream.

RE5: Number and potential generating capacity of renewable schemes refused planning permission.

Not triggered in 1997/98, 1998/99 or 1999/2000.